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THEY SAVED NOTRE DAME

PARIS FIRE CREWS AND THEIR CHAPLAIN HAILED FOR CATHEDRAL RESCUE MISSION

by AIDAN RADNEDGE

HEROES of the Notre Dame inferno have been acclaimed for saving much of the iconic Paris cathedral, including its most precious treasures.

Firefighters played a pivotal role by climbing the stairs of the twin square towers to fight the flames from inside as they threatened to spread from the destroyed spire.

And their chaplain Fr Jean-Marc Fournier also risked his life to dash into the building.

The Catholic priest (pictured), who entered Paris's Bataclan theatre to give the last rites to victims of the terrorist attack there in 2015, begged for consent to join crews on the cathedral floor.

He headed straight for the most cherished artefacts – including the 'crown of thorns' believed to contain

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BENOIT MOSER/AP

Confronting danger: Firefighters inside the burning building tackle the blaze from a window

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Corbyn: Scrap Sats to ease stress at school

by NINA MASSEY

LABOUR would abolish primary school Sats under plans to scrap the 'regime of extreme pressure testing', Jeremy Corbyn has said.

The stress was 'giving young children nightmares and leaving them in floods of tears', he added.

'I meet teachers of all ages and backgrounds who are totally overworked and overstressed. These are dedicated public servants. It's just wrong,' Mr Corbyn told the National Education Union's conference in Liverpool. He said Labour would scrap baseline assessments for reception classes and consult on an alternative that 'prepares children for life'.

He said: 'When children have a rich and varied curriculum, when they're encouraged to be creative, there's evidence they do better at the core elements of literacy and numeracy too.'

Mr Corbyn said his party trusts teachers and will raise standards by freeing them 'to inspire children, not pass them along an assembly line'.

The NEU's Dr Mary Bousted said Mr Corbyn 'recognises the damage a test-driven system is doing to children and schools'. Pupils aged six to seven are tested at the end of Year 2 (Key Stage 1), and, aged nine to ten, at the end of Year 6 (Key Stage 2). Key Stage 1 will be replaced with a baseline assessment in reception from next year.

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IN BRIEF

Rudd keeps door 'slightly ajar' for tilt at leadership

AMBER RUDD has said she doesn't have a plan to run in a Tory leadership election, but admitted she is 'keeping the door slightly ajar'.

The work and pensions secretary (pictured) played down talk she would stand with ex-foreign secretary Boris Johnson on a joint ticket in a bid to replace Theresa May, who has said she will step down after delivering Brexit,

Asked on Radio 5 Live if she wanted the PM's job, Ms Rudd said: 'What I've said is that I'm not planning to run, so I have kept the door slightly ajar, but I'm not committed to it at the moment. I'm just working on supporting the prime minister.'

Rock-art Man: Gallery named after Sir Elton

THE Victoria and Albert Museum has renamed a gallery after Sir Elton John and David Furnish (pictured) following a 'significant' donation. The musician's private photo collection will also go on display. DAVE BENETT/PA

Player one ready... Sony developing PS5 console

SONY has confirmed it is working on a PlayStation 5 console. The tech giant's as yet unnamed machine will feature better graphics, minimal loading times and be backwards compatible with PlayStation 4 games – but will not be released this year – Wired magazine reports.

Telescope Tess finds its first Earth-sized planet

A NEW space telescope has found its first Earth-sized planet in a star system beyond the Sun. Nasa's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite – or Tess – discovered HD 21749c which orbits a star 52 light years away. It is hoped Tess will find at least 50 planets in its two-year mission.

Sir Tom's tribute to legendary Delilah writer Les Reed

TOM JONES paid tribute last night to British songwriting legend Les Reed, who has died at the age of 83.

Reed, from Woking, Surrey, co-wrote Sir Tom's hits It's Not Unusual and Delilah, plus The Last Waltz for Engelbert Humperdinck. Voice star Sir Tom, 78, pictured with Reed, said he was a 'lovely man' whose music will 'live on forever' in fans' hearts.

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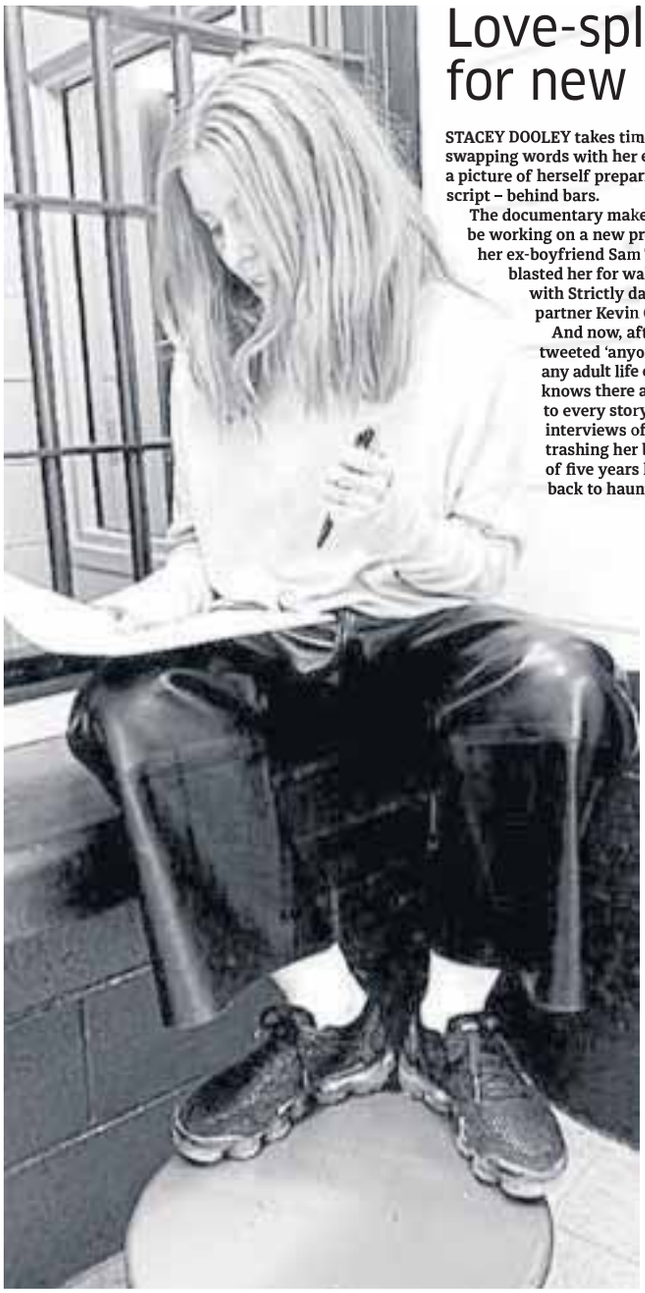

Love-split Stacey studies for new role on 'Scriptly'

STACEY DOOLEY takes time out from swapping words with her ex to post a picture of herself preparing a script – behind bars.

The documentary maker looks to be working on a new project after her ex-boyfriend Sam Tucknott blasted her for waltzing off with Strictly dance partner Kevin Clifton.

And now, after Stacey tweeted 'anyone with any adult life experience knows there are 2 sides to every story', old interviews of her trashing her boyfriend of five years have come back to haunt her. The 32-year-old hinted at their troubles two months ago. She told The Russell Howard Hour: 'My boyfriend never goes with me, he would be useless. I get a bit annoyed when he's not crying when I leave for these places.

'I'm like, "Are you not scared I'm never going to return? Are you not scared you're going to lose the love of your life?"

'And he's like, "You'll be fine, you'll be back in two weeks moaning about the state of the flat". And he's right, that's exactly what I do!'

This week three-times divorced Kevin, 36, – whose affair with Stacey was uncovered after he sent her a text saying 'I love you' – was spotted grabbing a coffee with friends.

Out with pals: Stacey's dance partner Kevin KGC PHOTO AGENCY

On a different page: Stacey posted a shot of her studying a script for a new project

Madden rockets off to Hollywood as he flees the 007 gossip

by ANDREI HARMSWORTH

RICHARD MADDEN confirmed he's off to crack America after waving goodbye to his life in London.

The Bodyguard actor plans to nab a Hollywood role while relaxing by the pool, after his role as protection officer David Budd in the hit BBC drama put him in the Bond conversation.

'If I'm going to be reading scripts for two months, I'd rather sit by the pool than sit in a pub in east London,' admitted the 32-year-old, who enjoyed a Hollywood makeover for America's Elle magazine.

He has already shipped off to Tinseltown, where he has been taken under the wing of 13 Reasons Why actor Brandon Flynn – singer Sam Smith's ex-boyfriend – who is showing him the ropes.

After splitting from 22-year-old Les Misérables actress Ellie Bamber, Madden is tuning out of gossip, including industry chat that he is favourite to replace Daniel Craig as the next 007. The actor from Paisley, Renfrewshire, insisted he is waiting for the fanfare to pass him by.

'It's all just noise. By March, there will be another British TV show with another young male actor, and then he'll be the next James Bond for the following two months,' he said.

For now, he is just waiting for his stubble rash to go after discussing gay sex scenes in forthcoming biopic Rocketman, where he stars as Sir Elton John's manager John Reid alongside Taron Egerton as the singer.

Comparing them with snogging Keeley Hawes in Bodyguard, he said: 'With one you get stubble rash, right? That's basically it. Otherwise, there's no difference. It's storytelling.'

The full interview is in the May issue of America's Elle, out now.

Role: Madden ELLE/ELIZABETH WEINBERG

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‘Deeply saddened’ Queen sends message of support

CHURCH bells will ring out across England to show the country’s support for France, the prime minister announced yesterday.

‘Notre Dame is one of the most beautiful buildings in the world – a symbol of France and the French people, and cherished across the globe,’ Theresa May said. ‘The images of destruction we saw last night were truly heart-rending.’

Yesterday, the bells of Westminster Abbey were tolled at 5.43pm, to mark the time the fire in Paris started. Tomorrow they will be joined by cathedrals and churches across England.

The Queen also expressed her deep sadness and sent a message of support to French president Emmanuel Macron.

The monarch, whose own beloved Windsor Castle was ravaged by fire in 1992, said her thoughts and prayers were with ‘all of France at this difficult time’.

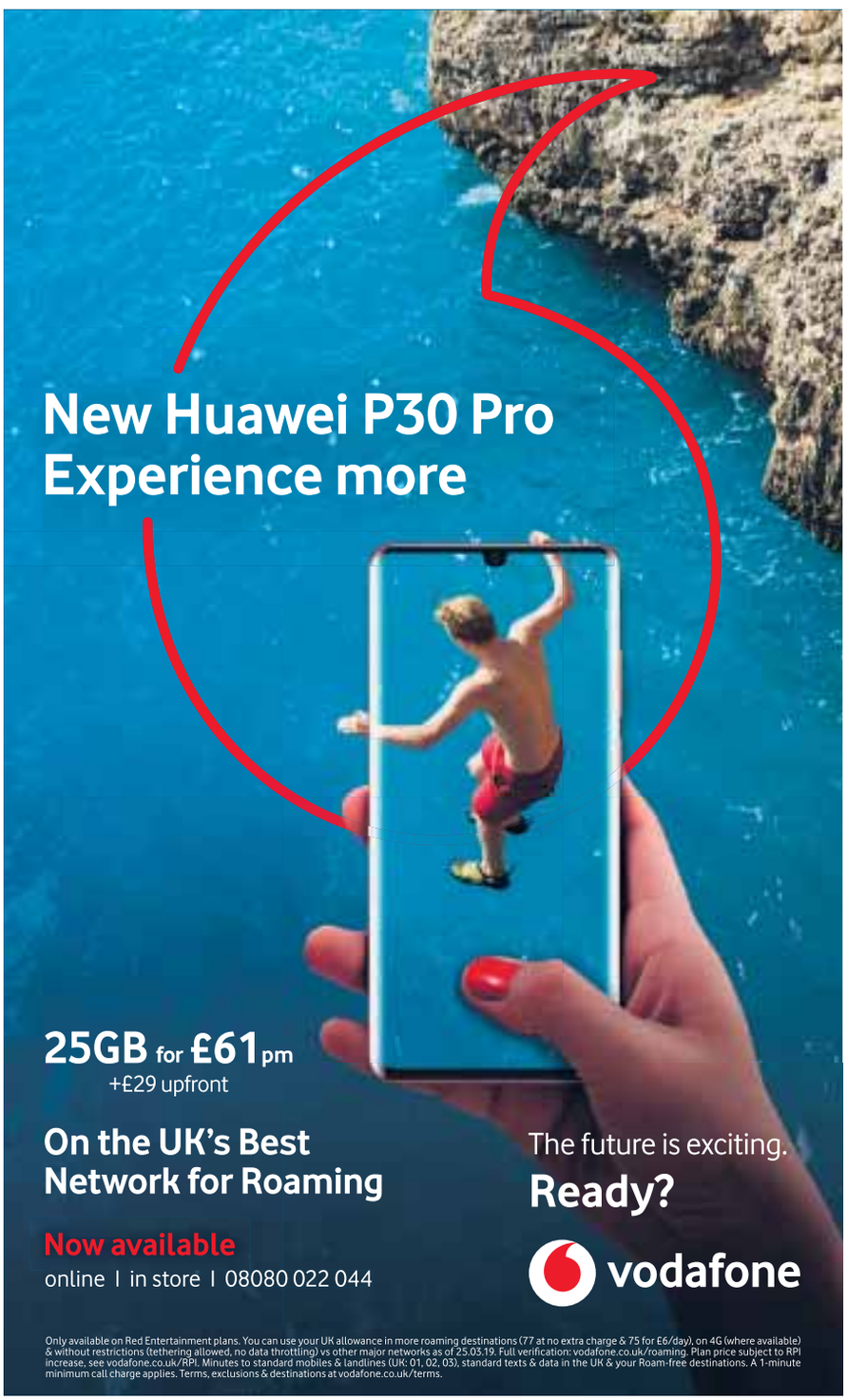
She said: ‘Prince Philip and I have been deeply saddened to see the images.’

Westminster ‘could go up in flames next’

THE Houses of Parliament face a ‘huge’ fire risk, warned Jeremy Corbyn after the Notre Dame cathedral blaze.

The Labour leader said the state of the Palace of Westminster was ‘very poor’. But its restoration and renewal programme is not expected to start until the mid-2020s, after MPs and peers voted last year for work to go ahead.

Minister David Lidington said: ‘With each year that passes, the risk of a catastrophic fire grows.’ But Parliament insisted: ‘Fire safety is a key priority.’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BECAUSE

COSMETICS GIANT L’ORÉAL PLEDGES £173M FOR RAVAGED NOTRE DAME AS TYCOONS LEAD INTERNATIONAL APPEAL FOR FUNDS

Backing: Bernard Arnault, of Louis Vuitton, and wife Helene; L’Oréal’s Françoise Bettencourt Meyers, and Salma Hayek with Kering’s François-Henri Pinault GETTY/REX

by DOMINIC YEATMAN

THE family behind the L’Oréal cosmetics empire sent the Notre Dame restoration fund soaring past £500million yesterday as French billionaires led an international fundraising campaign.

The world’s biggest make-up company – whose slogan is ‘Because I’m Worth It’ – promised to restore the cathedral to its former glory with a pledge of €200million (£173million) after the ferocious fire ravaged the 850-year-old building.

Britain and Germany said they stood ready to assist as French president Emmanuel Macron called for the world’s ‘greatest talents’ to help. François-Henri Pinault – the husband of Hollywood actress Salma Hayek and owner of the Kering luxury fashion empire – put up £86million, while luxury goods magnate Bernard Arnault, who owns the Louis Vuitton and the Christian Dior brands, pledged another £173million.

‘Everyone with means and recourse should participate,’ Mr Pinault told BBC Radio 4’s Today programme. ‘We need to rebuild collectively this part of our history, of our culture, so it’s an urgent, urgent need.’

French oil giant Total announced an £86million donation with the words ‘tossed but not sunk’ – the motto on the Paris coat of arms.

The L’Oréal donation was signed off by Françoise Bettencourt Meyers, who chairs the company and is the world’s richest woman, with an estimated fortune of £38billion. EU Council president Donald Tusk said the fire was a symbol of ‘how much we can lose’.

Speaking to MEPs in Strasbourg, he said: ‘It has made us aware that we are bound by something more important and more profound than treaties.’

Germany’s foreign minister Heiko Mass said that Notre Dame was ‘part of the cultural heritage of mankind and a symbol for Europe’.

And Poland’s president Andrzej Duda offered specialist teams to help rebuild the Unesco world heritage site.

Meanwhile, Russia’s Vladimir Putin offered his sympathies, praising the cathedral as a ‘treasure of Christian and world culture’.

Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo said she was planning an ‘international conference of donors’ and Unesco said it was ‘ready to dispatch an urgent mission to evaluate the damage’.

Britain’s ambassador to France Ed Llewellyn delivered a message of sympathy from the Queen and said he was talking with culture secretary Jeremy Wright about what help Britain could offer.

Defence secretary Gavin Williamson said experts who helped restore York Minster after a fire in 1984 could use their skills in Paris. ‘What we saw is how as a nation we came together, we had the greatest craftsmen in the country rebuild it and restore it,’ he told MPs.

Shock: Our report yesterday

Damage limitation: Irreplaceable treasures saved from Notre Dame fire PA/TWITTER

E IT'S WORTH IT

Cultural landmark: Unesco will 'urgently' evaluate the damage to heritage site GETTY

Cross to bear: Rubble left around the altar after the inferno NICK EDWARDS

Kneel and spray: A firefighter battles the flames inside the 850-year-old cathedral. An appeal has already raised £500million in pledges EPA

Saved: Notre Dame's crown of thorns

Cathedral came within minutes of destruction

» Continued from **Page 1**

fragments of the one worn by Jesus at his crucifixion. Fr Fournier emerged unscathed clutching the relic – and Notre Dame's heritage director Laurent Prades said most of the interior had survived intact.

The sole major casualty was the high altar, installed only in 1989, which was hit by the cathedral spire when it crashed down in flames.

'We have been able to salvage all the rest,' Mr Prades said. 'All the 18th century steles, the pietas, frescoes, chapels and the big organ are fine.'

About two-thirds of the building was saved from the blaze, which was finally snuffed out yesterday more than 12 hours after it started on Monday evening. France's deputy interior minister Laurent Nunez said the 400 firefighters involved came within half an hour of losing the battle.

He added: 'Twenty or so firefighters went into the two towers at the risk of their lives. Their mission was to preserve the two belfries to be sure the towers were not hit.'

The fire crews on the floor were withdrawn after the spire fell. But taking their place was 78st robot Colossus, which lashed the flames with water. Two police officers and a firefighter were injured in the mission.

French president Emmanuel Macron said last night: 'Each and every person sacrificed and gave what they had.

'The firefighters fought with heroism – the police and security services were there as always. The Parisians were reassured, the French were moved.'

'Miracle' as Notre Dame's iconic windows left intact after inferno

FRANCE was hailing a 'miracle' last night amid rising hopes that Notre Dame's 13th century stained glass 'rose' windows may have survived.

Firefighters feared the three windows would explode in the intense heat from the flames yards away that destroyed the spire and roof.

But the masterpieces appeared still intact last night, suspended by the fragile structure of the building.

'Much less important stained glass windows of the 19th century may have been touched, but not the jewels of the 13th century,' said the cathedral's Andre Finot. 'It's a bit of a miracle and we are very relieved.'

Heroic rescuers saved dozens of relics on Monday night as the fire blazed above their heads, including

'Relieved': One of the rose windows AP

the crown of thorns believed to contain fragments of the one worn by Christ and brought back from the Crusades by King Louis IX.

A tunic belonging to Louis and the medieval organ are also safe – but there were fears a nail allegedly used in Christ's crucifixion and fragments of the cross may have perished, along with relics of Saint Genevieve and Paris's patron Saint Denis, which were kept in the spire.

Rescuers will head into the building today to move paintings dating from the 17th century to the Louvre.

'Some five to ten per cent of the artwork has probably been destroyed,' said Maxime Cumunel, of France's Observatory for Religious Heritage. 'We have to face up to that.'

The fire broke out just days after 16 bronze statues were removed by crane from the cathedral's wooden spire.

Most remaining statues appear to have survived. But the altar, hit by the collapsing spire, has been damaged.

Blaze inquiry cops question restorers working on spire

DETECTIVES have begun interviewing specialist restorers who were carrying out work on Notre Dame's spire.

Staff from Le Bras Frères (Le Bras Brothers) were among about 30 people questioned yesterday as a criminal inquiry was launched into the devastating fire at the cathedral.

'The fear is that a small fire began in the roof where they were working and quickly spread,' a source close to the inquiry said.

A fire alarm at the cathedral went off twice on Monday, another source said.

When a check was made by a fire officer, nothing was found amiss – and by the time a second check was made, the blaze had already taken hold.

Le Bras Frères is based in Jarny, north-east France – in a road named after Hunchback Of Notre Dame author Victor Hugo. It has 200 employees and has carried out restorations at Reims cathedral and the Palace of Versailles.

Boss Julien Le Bras (pictured) said: 'Our first thought is to protect the values of historical buildings.'

He said his 12 staff at Notre Dame had already left when the fire began and 'all security measures were respected'.

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Tubeway barmy as Extinction rebels to target Underground

by DANIEL BINNS

CLIMATE change activists are planning to target the London Underground today in an escalation of their direct action in the capital.

Protesters from Extinction Rebellion, who are demanding urgent moves to reduce carbon emissions, said they would aim to cause widespread disruption on trains by 'peacefully and safely' breaking the law.

Later, in a statement to London commuters caught up in their action, they added: 'We sincerely apologise to all those who may suffer as a consequence of this disruption.'

The Tube 'attack' comes after the group began a 'weeks-long' protest on Monday. They have blocked and shut roads in the capital, as part of co-ordinated action in 80 cities worldwide.

The group said: 'In any other circumstances we would never dream of disrupting the Tube but this is an emergency.

'We start by blocking roads and cars for the first days and escalating our action to public transport afterwards. The disruption will rapidly increase the longer it continues.' London mayor Sadiq Khan said he was 'extremely concerned' about the prospect of disruption to the Tube.

He said: 'It is absolutely crucial to get more people using public transport if we are to tackle this climate emergency – and millions of Londoners depend on the Underground to get about.

'Targeting public transport in this way would only damage the cause of all of us who want to tackle climate change, as well as risking Londoners' safety, and I'd implore anyone considering doing so to think again.'

Protesters continued to occupy key sites in London yesterday, including Waterloo Bridge and Parliament Square. Police said they had arrested more than 200 demonstrators.

Ch Supt Colin Wingrove said 55 bus routes had to be shut down in the capital and around 500,000 people had been affected.

■ SATELLITE measurements of Earth's 'skin temperature' have confirmed global warming is heating the planet. The system called Airs – Atmospheric Infra-Red Sounder – recorded the temperature at the surface of the ocean, land and snow-covered areas from 2003 to 2017 and showed warming matched other data. Dr Joel Susskind, of Nasa, said: 'The Earth's surface has been warming globally.'

Takeaway order: Police officers carry away a woman demonstrator from London's Waterloo Bridge yesterday PICTURE: AFP

Tents situation: Road is blocked at Waterloo Bridge yesterday and protesters camp out in Oxford Street PICTURES AFP/REX

Brexit talks stalling... but we're in for long-haul

BREXIT talks between the government and Labour are in danger of stalling, Jeremy Corbyn has said.

The Labour leader (pictured) is demanding an agreement on a customs union and workers' rights before backing a withdrawal deal. 'We've put those cases very robustly to the government and there's no agreement as yet,' he said.

More meetings are expected this week but issues such as the customs union and a confirmatory referendum are not expected to return to the agenda before Easter.

Meanwhile, European Council president Donald Tusk has hinted Brexit could be delayed beyond the October 31 deadline agreed with Theresa May earlier this month.

With the UK likely to participate in the European elections on May 23, Mr Tusk told MEPs in Strasbourg that it would continue to be represented in the parliament for 'several months – maybe longer'. During that time, he said British MEPs would be treated as 'full members, with all the rights and obligations'.

Nice to see EU: Mr Juncker kisses his Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier in Strasbourg EPA

Mr Tusk said he disagreed with one of the bloc's premiers who had claimed people were 'dreaming' if they thought the UK would reverse its decision to leave.

'I would like to say, at this rather difficult moment in our history, we need dreamers and dreams,' he told MEPs.

The European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker said the EU had 'nothing to gain' from a disruptive no-deal Brexit. He said only those who sought to 'undermine the global legal order' would benefit from such an outcome.

It came as US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told an audience in Dublin there would be no US-UK trade deal, which would have to be ratified by Congress, if Brexit damaged the Good Friday peace agreement in Northern Ireland. 'Don't even think about that,' she added.

IN BRIEF

Drop-out guilty of knife attack on four officers

A UNIVERSITY drop-out has been found guilty of a knife attack on four police officers he lured to a house with a bogus 999 call.

Alex Traykov, 20, reported a fight at a house in Islington, north London, last October. He then lay in wait with a large kitchen knife and attacked police.

At the Old Bailey, Traykov, a former Winchester university history student from Redhill, Surrey, was cleared of attempted murder but found guilty of three counts of wounding with intent plus one of attempted wounding with intent. Traykov, who says he was high on strong cannabis, is due to be sentenced on May 10.

Chaos as rail passengers hit by overhead ache

PASSENGERS faced severe disruption yesterday after damaged LNER trains had to be taken out of service.

Ten InterCity 225s – 30 per cent of the operator's electric trains – suffered damage to their pantographs. These frames are mounted on the roof to get power from overhead wires.

People were urged not to travel on LNER's routes running along the East Coast Main Line from London King's Cross to north-east England and Scotland.

A spokesman for LNER, which is introducing new electric and bi-mode Azuma trains next month, said: 'We are sorry for the inconvenience.'

'Groomed' Daesh teen sees life term reduced

A TEENAGER who was part of Britain's first all-female Daesh cell has had her life sentence cut by two years after a court heard she was like a 'child grooming' victim.

Safaa Boular, 19, who plotted with her mother and sister, was convicted last year of preparing an attack on the British Museum.

She was recruited online aged 15 and was set to marry a UK-born Daesh terrorist.

Her barrister compared Boular, of Lambeth, south London, to girls abused by child grooming gangs in Rochdale. An Old Bailey judge cut her minimum term from 13 years to 11 years after saying she had been 'indoctrinated'.

Stresses of work? They are sitting next to you

CO-WORKERS are a major cause of stress, with many blamed for not doing their job properly, a study says.

Understaffing or inexperienced colleagues add to headaches at work, with half of 1,000 people polled claiming their job is more stressful than it was a year ago.

A third say their boss turns up the heat and a similar number are taxed by performance targets.

'Employees say a major cause of stress at work is unfortunately the people they work with,' said Adrian Matthews, of MetLife UK, which carried out the study. 'Either there aren't enough, or the ones there are failing to deliver.'

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Stonehenge 'was put up by farmers from Turkey'

Turkish delight: Migrants are believed to have built Stonehenge PICTURE: SWNS

by JOEL TAYLOR

FOR generations experts have argued over exactly who was responsible for creating Stonehenge.

Now scientists in London believe they have found the answer... and it's all down to a bunch of farmers originally from Turkey.

Experts from the Natural History Museum and UCL have compared the DNA of Neolithic human remains found in Britain with that of people alive at the same time in Europe.

They discovered that the ancestors of ancient Britons appear to have travelled from Anatolia – what is now Turkey – to Spain and Portugal.

They then wound their way north through France, reaching our shores in about 4,000BC.

Although Britain was inhabited by groups of hunter-gatherers when the farmers arrived, DNA shows that the two groups did not mix. The hunter-gatherers – like Cheddar Man whose remains have been dated to 7,100BC – were almost completely replaced by the Neolithic farmers.

Unlike Cheddar Man, who had blue eyes and dark skin, these farmers had brown eyes and black hair.

In addition to farming, the migrants appear to have introduced building monuments using large stones or 'megaliths'. Stonehenge in Wiltshire was part of this, experts believe.

Dr Tom Booth, of the Natural History Museum, said: 'We don't find any evidence for hunter-gatherer ancestry in the Neolithic farmers.

'Maybe their population sizes were too small to have left any kind of genetic legacy.'

More of us live with parents or grown-up children

NEARLY a third of home owners live with at least one other generation of adults from their family, a survey shows. Almost a quarter expect to be sharing with parents or grown-up children in the future, Barclays Mortgages also found. As people live longer and house prices rise, more than a fifth of home owners have converted living space into bedrooms to meet the needs of their families, according to the poll of 2,000 people.

Flat pack prankster: Lee lounges in his stylish 'study' at Ikea store KENNEDY

SEALED WITH A KIT... MY TINDER MATCH WOOED ME IN IKEA STUNT

A SINGLE mum was wooed by her Tinder match's 'amazing furniture' – only to discover he'd staged photos of himself lounging around in Ikea.

Natasha Reid was impressed by 'Lee', 28, in what appeared to be his stylish home, studying a book in a smart dark-wood library and tucked up in bed with a soft toy.

But after checking his bio on the app, she found he listed himself as a 'fan of taking photos in Ikea'. Surprise soon turned to hilarity and she said the prankster's photo sequence made him her most memorable match.

'It's 100 per cent a good way to stand out on Tinder,' said the 24-year-old carer (pictured), of Englefield Green, Surrey. 'Even if he and I never go on a date, he will definitely get one with that profile.

'The furniture in the photos looked amazing. Then I looked at his bio and when I saw what it said, I thought it was so funny.'

When she shared Lee's profile online, commenters urged her to 'marry' him. She said: 'He's as funny in his messages, and is attractive as well, which is a plus.'

Lee declined to comment.

Suite dreams: Lee tucked up in bed with teddy as posted on Tinder profile

IN BRIEF

Just 76g red meat daily lifts cancer risk by 20%

EATING even moderate amounts of ham, bacon and red meat raises the risk of bowel cancer, experts have warned.

A study of 475,581 volunteers over five years found people who ate an average of 76g per day of red and processed meat had a 20 per cent higher risk compared with those who ate 21g per day.

NHS guidelines suggest eating no more than 70g a day.

Dr Julie Sharp of Cancer Research UK, which part-funded the study, said: 'Try doing meat-free Mondays, use chicken and fish or swap meat for pulses.'

Sex pest dressed up as old lady to lure women

A SEX pest faces a lengthy prison sentence after he targeted women in the street by dressing up as an old lady.

Paul Reed would lurk in public outdoor areas and pretend to be cold. He huddled up to one of the women who took pity on him, making her feel uncomfortable.

The 57-year-old, from Chatham, Kent, breached a previous sexual harm prevention order that forbade him to dress as a woman.

At Maidstone crown court he admitted 11 charges, including two sexual assaults. He was remanded to be sentenced next month.

Airport travellers face baggage handler strikes

BAGGAGE handlers at Heathrow and Luton airports are staging strikes at the end of this month in disputes over pay.

Three hundred members of the Unite union employed by GH London at Heathrow's terminal 2 and 4 have voted to walk out for four days from April 26. The union says they have faced six years of pay freezes.

Meanwhile, 120 Unite members employed by the same company at Luton, who service Wizz Air, will strike for a week from the same date.

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SCARY SPICE: REHEARSAL? I'M STAYING BY THE POOL

THIS is Mel B apparently rehearsing hard for the Spice Girls tour, on her tod, in LA.

Scary Spice posted a picture of herself in a leopard-print bikini at her Hollywood home after failing to fly to London to face Geri Horner at band practice, having recently claimed the pair had a lesbian fling in the 1990s.

And Ginger Spice Geri, 46, hinted at some turmoil when she shared her own rehearsal snaps, revealing that she was trying not to 'crack under pressure'.

Another snap showed her and Mel C, 45, singing.

Back in business: Geri with Mel C and catching a breather in a London studio

Ready to dip in: Mel B poses in itsy-bitsy bikini

INSTAGRAM

Bandmate Emma Bunton tried to play down reports of a rift between Scary and Ginger, by revealing that Mel B joined the rest of the girls at rehearsals via FaceTime.

'She learns the same steps as us,' said Baby Spice, 43. 'We're doing the same rehearsals but obviously she's there (in LA). I think she's coming over in the next few weeks and then we all work together.'

Sources close to Mel B, also 43, say an expensive legal row with her ex-nanny is to blame for her no-show.

ANDREI HARMSWORTH'S GUILTY

A look that slays: Nikolaj poses for Man About Town after Westeros exit

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PLEASURES

NIK'S CASTLE IS A NO THRONE ZONE FOR HIS QUEEN...

BUT THE GoT KINGSLAYER IS HOPING FOR 'HAPPY ENDING'

HE INDUCES swoon levels as Jaime Lannister in Game of Thrones – but Nikolaj Coster-Waldau says there are some fans he struggles to win over... like his wife and two children.

The dishy Danish actor is finally showered and changed after playing the 'Kingslayer' in the hit fantasy drama and poses for Man About Town magazine in these shots.

Asked how his missus, actress Nukaaka Coster-Waldau, and their two children are dealing with his last hurrah on GoT, he confessed: 'They don't watch the show.'

The 48-year-old said they feel 'uncomfortable' – unsurprisingly – watching his graphic scenes with incestuous on-screen twin Queen Cersei, who is played by Lena Headey, on the Sky Atlantic show.

His proud mum tunes in but regularly confuses her son with other actors – like she did when watching his 2001 film Black Hawk Down for the first time.

'She said, "You did a great job... especially the scene when you drink coffee. That was funny,"' he shared.

The actor then had to point out: 'Mum, that was Ewan McGregor.'

As for his end game in GoT, Nikolaj says it's almost mission complete.

'It is very rare that I enjoy watching something I am in,' he said. 'Because there's always a scene with Jaime and then there's 20 minutes before he comes back.'

All he's ever hoped for on the hit show 'was a great death'. And no matter what happens to Jaime, Nikolaj says he had a happy ending.

'My last day on Thrones... it was just the perfect scene. It couldn't have ended in a better way. It was just a gorgeous day,' he said.

Read the full interview in Man About Town, Spring/Summer 2019, Chapter 1 Issue available at www.manabouttown.tv.

Water a way to finish: Nikolaj cools off, and has revealed his wife Nukaaka has never watched GoT

DOUG INGLISH/MAN ABOUT TOWN/GETTY

DATING BRAD? SHOCKINGLY I'M STILL SINGLE, MOANS CHARLIZE

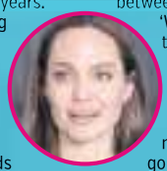
CHARLIZE THERON denied claims she's been dating Brad Pitt on the sly – as she revealed she's been 'shockingly' single for the last ten years.

Seemingly forgetting her fling with actor Sean Penn, which ended in 2015, the screen siren doesn't understand why she can't bag a man.

'Somebody needs to grow a pair and step up. I'm shockingly available,' she said.

The South African star, 43, laughed off claims she and Pitt, 55, were an item.

The Oscar-winner, mum to adopted son Jackson and daughter August, says she wouldn't have time to date Pitt – because they have eight kids between them.



'With both of my kids, the first two years, I had no interest in dating,' she said. 'It was a case where my body chemistry and my mind just wanted to go to the place where I was 100 per cent satisfied with being a mom.'

Meanwhile, Pitt's ex-wife Angelina Jolie has dropped his surname. Court papers filed in LA state: 'The petitioner's name is restored to Angelina Jolie.'

Eva didn't want kids... till 'Ryan happened'

EVA MENDES says Ryan Gosling is the only man she was ever prepared to share the gene pool with.

The US screen siren didn't start a family until her 40s and now says that's because the La La Land actor, 38, was the only man to fit the fatherhood role.

They are now mum and dad to daughters Esmeralda, four, and two-year-old Amada.

And the Ghost Rider actress, 45, has admitted starting a family was always 'the furthest thing from my mind' until 'Ryan Gosling happened'.

She told Women's Health: 'I mean, falling in love with him. Then it made sense for me to have... not kids, but his kids. It was very specific to him.'

SUPERHERO BRIE'S A BILLION DOLLAR STAR

Just Marvel-lous: Brie Larson and Mark Ruffalo GETTY

BOX office ball-buster Brie Larson led from the front when the Avengers: Endgame cast swooped to Seoul in South Korea for a fan event.

The Captain Marvel actress was dressed to frill in a pink and purple frock after leaving the men of Hollywood ruffled on Monday as her solo superhero movie banked $1billion.

The 29-year-old US actress proudly declared: 'I'm very grateful to have broken this glass ceiling of normalising the concept that women can also make a billion dollar [film]. I don't know why that was so hard to comprehend in the first place.'

Trailing her on stage were Avengers actors Robert Downey Jr and Jeremy Renner. And co-star Mark Ruffalo, 50, said he got mad at film bosses when they kept the fate of his character Hulk a secret from him.

'I didn't know until I saw the movie. For one take, I did disappear, and then the other one I didn't,' he said.

MY DRAGON SCENE WAS A BALLS-UP... BUT CRITICS KNOW NOTHING, SAYS KIT

KIT HARINGTON has explained why flying on a dragon truly is a ball-ache.

The Game of Thrones actor thought he'd lost a testicle when he had to ride an uncomfortable mechanical bull-like machine while shooting the CGI scenes for the hit show.

The Jon Snow actor said: 'Buck work is not easy.

'There was a bit where Jon almost falls off.

'The dragon swings around really violently and my right ball got trapped.

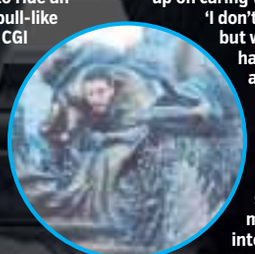
'I didn't have time to say, "Stop!" I was being swung around,' he added.

Fretting, the 32-year-old feared: 'In my head, I thought, "This is how it ends, on this buck, swinging me around by my testicles, literally".'

Luckily he's still intact, and added: 'Sorry. That's probably too much information.' And after 3.4million Sky Atlantic viewers tuned in to watch episode one of the final series, the actor says he has given up on caring what critics think.

'I don't mean to sound mean, but whatever critic spends half an hour writing about this season and makes their [negative] judgment on it, can go f* themselves,' he said. 'I know how much work was put into this, how much pressure people put on themselves.**

'They cared about the characters, the story, about not letting people down. If people feel let down by it, I don't give a f*, because everyone tried their hardest.'**



It was nuts: Kit admits he thought he'd lost a testicle when he filmed dragon flight scene GETTY/HBO

THE GUILTY GUTTER

Bebe: I'm bipolar and not ashamed anymore

BEBE REXHA has revealed she has bipolar disorder.

Sharing her diagnosis, the Meant To Be singer, 29, tweeted: 'For the longest time, I didn't understand why I felt so sick. Now I know why. I'm bipolar and I'm not ashamed anymore. That is all.'

Dating Mabel can be a high-maintenance job

MABEL admits she can be a high maintenance girlfriend. The Don't Call Me Up singer, 23, who has titled her debut album High Expectations, said: 'It's about the expectations I have of myself, other people's expectations of me and vice versa... especially in relationships.'

Snoop's new TV role for Netflix is just dope

SNOOP DOGG is to star in a new Netflix documentary to defend marijuana use. Explaining how smoking has affected his music, the 47-year-old rapper says on Grass Is Greener: 'We're not the war on drugs, we're fighting the war on drugs.'

Primal Scream will get intimate with rock fans

PRIMAL SCREAM are set to down-size for their greatest hits gig by playing at 1,145-capacity Scala in London. The May 21 show will be their most intimate in the capital for 13 years. The rockers will release new record Maximum Rock 'N' Roll: The Singles, on May 24.

METRO TALK

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Open letter to a thief

■ Dear thief. You stole my phone, bank card and cash from my bag on Thursday on the Tube, somewhere between Hendon Central on the Northern line to Victoria via Euston on the Victoria line. Have you thought about the impact of your actions? By taking my card, I couldn't get out of the station. By taking my card, I was unable to draw money out and couldn't buy breakfast, lunch or food for dinner. By taking my phone, my elderly mother and ill father – for whom I'm the main carer – couldn't contact me. By taking my phone case, you took away the only photo I had of my dear husband. Why don't you work hard and live a decent life instead of causing pain to others. **Anon, London**

A research project into how to rip off as many as possible

■ In response to letters about the state of our airports (MetroTalk, Tue), I'm proud of them in general and I was impressed with how clean and modern Luton airport looked when I passed through last week.

Yes, the retail staff can look unfussed, but wouldn't you if you worked long hours for low pay? Go down your average high street and the experience isn't dissimilar.

Heathrow airport has more than two years of month-on-month passenger growth, so I wouldn't say it's grounded.
Ben, Twickenham

■ I commute weekly between Newcastle and Heathrow airports. Both are awful. Newcastle is a huge bar with the occasional plane and Heathrow is a research project in how to waste the most time ripping off the most people.

It's mind-boggling that both have won awards. Newcastle in particular needs to think about the impression it gives to visitors to our region.
Scott Ellis, Newcastle

■ Having used five European and three UK airports this year, I have to agree that standards in this country are appalling. Add Birmingham to the list, where you're channelled through duty free on arrival as well as departure. And Manchester is like a cattle market.
GonnaUseTheTrain, Sutton Coldfield

■ I love airports but the need to pay pretty much the cost of your flight for a meal is ridiculous. The worst I saw was about €6 (£5.20) for a bottle of water in Budapest. Come on!
Joe, Portsmouth

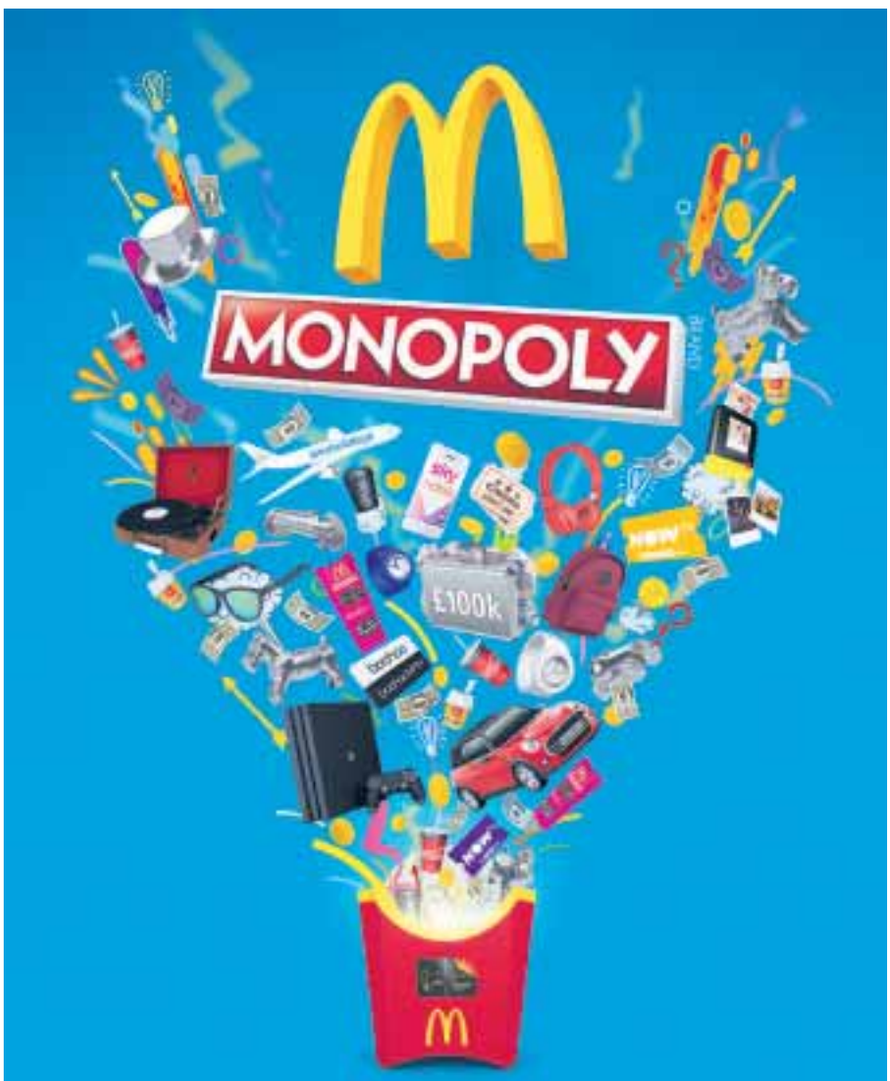
Airports: The worst aspect of flying

■ It's not only airports in this country. I've recently been to Denver, Phoenix and Toronto – they have very few happy employees.
M Jones, Northants

■ We have ten years to avoid climate catastrophe, so more of us need to fly far less, if at all. Let's invest in good electric trains, not airports.
Annie Leymarie, London

■ Totally agree about British airports. Whenever I fly, I find a much better selection and cheaper shops in the US.
David Sandler, London

■ Airports, trains, roads. Why is our infrastructure so decrepit? It's all so embarrassing. What must our visitors think?
Wee Haggis, Edinburgh



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GOOD DEED FEED

Thank you to the kind person who found my credit card, money and train ticket home and handed it into the Swiss Cottage customer services manager Tunde. He called me using the number on my business card and I had it back within the hour. Fantastic support from the rail staff at Paddington. I will ensure I pass it forward – thank you to all.
Cary, Windsor

Thank you to the very nice young man who helped my husband with his shopping at Sainsbury's in Maidstone today. We really appreciate your kindness. ***Linda, Maidstone***

Huge thanks to the guard and the supervisor at Southampton Central – and especially to the lovely guard Ruth – who all helped to reunite me with the shopping bag I'd left on the train from Winchester on Monday afternoon. I'm truly grateful.
Barbara, New Milton

Thank you to Simon, who I accosted while he was jogging. He came and helped me pick up my mother, who had fallen and was too heavy for me to lift on my own. She's fine now and sends her heartfelt thanks.
Janet, Lisson Grove

Thank you to the lovely TfL worker at Liverpool Street who gave my three- and four-year-old grandsons a big welcome on their first visit to London. Wonderfully sensitive and so kind.
Jill, Devon

*Start your text with the word **DEED** followed by your comment, name and where you live to 65700. Standard network charge applies*

FLAWS OF THE DANGEROUS DOGS ACT

Died at holiday park: Frankie Macritchie, who was nine, with his father Billy

■ **Regarding calls to overhaul the Dangerous Dogs Act after nine-year-old Frankie Macritchie was attacked and killed by a dog known to him (Metro, Mon). Whether the animal was a banned breed or not, the act was destined to fail as it is based on the dog's appearance, not behaviour. No dog is born evil. The problem lies with the owner not training and controlling the dog and, in some cases, making it aggressive.**
Mary, London

■ **Surely the dog should be put down. Who would want to risk being near such a dangerous animal now?**
Bernard, London

AND ANOTHER THING...

■ Will from Storrington says he may have to change his drinking habits if Emmanuel Macron carries on with his anti-British rhetoric (MetroTalk, Mon). Some of us already have. New-world shiraz and malbec already replace the French wines I once drank regularly – and I know many others who are doing the same. **Jim, London**

■ Jill Dobbs says it's appalling David Lammy compares some Brexiteers to Nazis (MetroTalk, Tue) What is appalling is Boris Johnson's racist comments, meeting extreme right-winger Steve Bannon and being backed by Jacob Rees-Mogg who shared a video by the the far right German party AfD. Where you see fascism, call it out. **Pete, Essex**

■ David of London wants a photo of a near-naked woman to objectify in the name of 'equality' after pictures of a scantily clad Jude Law taken while filming The New Pope were published (MetroTalk, Mon). For decades you had one daily on page three of a well-known newspaper and you can still get top-shelf magazines in petrol stations across the land. Not nice to have your gender objectified, is it? Now you know how women feel every day. **Helen, Liverpool**

■ I wonder to what extent Labour's traditional support of Palestinians suffering under Israeli oppression is being used by the party's opponents to accuse them of being anti-Semitic? I suspect a lot. **Brian, York**

RUSH-HOUR CRUSH

Love is all around us, as shown by the messages left by our commuter cupids. Are they talking about you? And please tell us if you get together!

To the fabulous young lady from Harlington who travels to St Pancras – that hair, that smile... Let's share some chocolate?
Grizz, Chingford

The girl in the black overcoat with golden hair and a husky voice at Upminster station on the 7.33am. You really are a sight for sore eyes in the morning – and if you ever feel faint again there's always my shoulder to lean on! ***Sweet P***

To the Bridget Jones impersonator who got her bags stuck in the train door at Market Harborough on Monday. Would love to meet for a chat. ***Gordon, Kettering***

Very attractive paediatric technician at 6.30 on the Victoria line. I introduced myself and I've thought about you ever since. Would you like to have a glass of wine with me one evening?
The Man In The Grey Hat

To the tall handsome gentleman dressed up as Piglet at Waterloo who let me on the 7.50am train to Basingstoke first. Great to see someone else who loves a good costume. You were such a gent for letting me on first, I was having so much trouble with my Pudsey head.
Northern Lass Dressed As Pudsey

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SIXTY SECONDS

With **Stephen Mulhern**

THE COMEDIAN, MAGICIAN AND HOST, 42, TALKS MISTAKEN IDENTITIES, TALENT SHOW TIPS AND WHAT MAKES BRADLEY WALSH ANGRY

INTERVIEW BY KEITH WATSON

REX

You present spin-off show Britain's Got More Talent. How would you do as a contestant in the main show?
With the knowledge of the show that I've got, I reckon I'd get through to the live shows. And if I was to do magic, I think I'd have a good chance of making the final. Winning's a whole other ball game.

Are there too many singers? It's meant to be variety...
I would love a speciality act to win, particularly a magic act. But do I think there are too many singers? No, because Susan Boyle or Paul Potts just wouldn't have made it on The X Factor, they would have been out of their element. With BGT you just don't know what kind of acts are going to come through.

Lucky break: Ant and Dec

What would be your top tips for BGT contestants?
No matter how good you are, overconfidence is a really off-putting trait for a UK audience. Don't answer the judges back. As soon as I see anybody do that I just think, 'That's over for them' – it never works. However talented you are, you really need to be likeable, it just won't work if you come out thinking you're Charlie Big Bananas!

Your new show, In For A Penny, is touring the country. What's the toughest town to get laughs in?
You're not catching me out with that one – someone asked me that the other day but if I said the town, I'd never be allowed to go back there!

Are there days when you really don't want to be out on the street, joking with people?
Do I ever get down? Are there days when it's harder than the day before? Yes, I'm human. But I love meeting all the characters you encounter doing things like In For A Penny. It's one of the hardest shows I've ever done just because of the numbers of people you get through in a day's filming. But the reaction of people when they win make it really worth it.

You seem like a people person. Where does that come from?
My parents are market traders, I've got two brothers and a sister, and we all worked hard at that as a family. I worked as a market trader and some people think 'what a lovely job' but it's hard. Although it's great training for working with people.

When I was 16 I was working shifts as a magician, I'd do spots at places like Harrods

On the shows you do people know your face but struggle to come up with your name – does that bother you?
I'm absolutely fine with it, I find it funny. I said to this one woman on a show, she was probably about 45 or 50, I said to her 'can you spell my name?' And she said OK but I knew as soon as I looked at her that she didn't know who I was. So she started out spelling it A-N-D-I and I was cracking up but she just carried on spelling P-E-T-E-R-S. Come on – Andi Peters? It was hilarious!

Any other strange comparisons?
The other one I get is that a lot of people think I'm Bradley Walsh or that I'm his son. He's been asked about that a couple of times and he really hates it! I'm not his son, by the way.

Irked: Actor Bradley Walsh

Are you happy with the level of fame you're at right now? Is it important to you that you keep your profile on simmer?
I'd never do a reality show. I would never do Dancing On Ice or I'm A Celebrity... because I do like to keep myself to myself. You've got to do the kind of shows I do – it's the shows you turn down that define you.

Was working with Ant & Dec on Saturday Night Takeaway your lucky break?
Michael Parkinson was interviewing David Jason and he said to him, 'You've been very lucky in the roles you've had.' And David Jason paused and said, 'It's funny you should say that, the harder I work, the luckier I get.' That really struck home with me.

Was moving into TV always the plan? You began as a magician.
I tried to go to drama school but it didn't work out. I'd started doing magic at 11 and it really helped me through school. I wasn't academic, I was only ever good at English, music and drama. So when I was 16 I was working shifts as a magician. I'd do spots at places like Harrods but knew I needed to get a proper act. So I became a Redcoat at Butlins and it was the best thing I'd done. I left at 20 and by then the friends I knew at drama school were just graduating but they'd never done a real show – I'd entertained thousands.

Do you still keep the magic side of things going?
The presenting was a massive bonus. Magic still plays a big part in what I do. I've always got a pack of cards on the go in my suit pocket, you never know when you're going to need to do a trick.

Britain's Got More Talent is on at 8.35pm on ITV2 on Saturdays For TV To Go in partnership with ITV Hub, see page 27

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Afghan war veteran, 37, makes bid to topple Trump

by JOEL TAYLOR

A LITTLE-KNOWN city mayor in his 30s attracted more than $1million in donations within hours after officially launching his campaign to replace Donald Trump in the White House.

Immigrant's son Pete Buttigieg, a gay Afghan war veteran and Harvard graduate, promised 'something totally different' as he joined the race to become the Democrat candidate.

The mayor of South Bend, Indiana, admitted it was 'more than a little bold' for a 'Midwestern millennial' to seek the highest office in the land.

But he said a fresh approach was needed to take on the US president.

'The forces of change in our country today are tectonic,' the 37-year-old said. 'Forces that help to explain what made this current presidency even possible.

'That's why, this time, it's not just about winning an election – it's about winning an era.'

Back to Lincoln: William Weld will take on Donald Trump in Republican race

Devout Christian Mr Buttigieg was joined by husband Chasten Glezman as he spoke at a former Studebaker car plant in his home town of South Bend.

He is only one of more than a dozen contenders chasing the Democratic nomination. But the former US Navy Reserve lieutenant, who speaks eight languages, including his dad Joseph's native tongue Maltese, has become a frontrunner with total campaign funds exceeding $7million (£5.3million).

Meanwhile, former Massachusetts governor William Weld, 73, has become the first challenger to Mr Trump for the Republican nomination. He said he wanted a return to Abraham Lincoln's principles of 'equality, dignity and opportunity for all'.

Married: Mr Buttigieg with his husband Chasten Glezman

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

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WORLD BITES

■ A BOY of two trapped in a Spanish well died from the fall, say judicial sources. A post-mortem examination contradicts claims by landowner David Serrano, charged with reckless homicide, that rescuers caused the death of Julen Rosello Jimenez.

■ **MORE than 18,000 people have been forced to flee the Libyan capital of Tripoli as the country teeters on the brink of civil war. Dozens have died in clashes between the Libyan National Army, led by Khalifa Haftar, and militias loyal to the UN-backed government.**

■ STAFF at a US newspaper targeted by a gunman with a grudge called a Pulitzer Prize citation for its coverage 'bittersweet'. Capital Gazette staff in Maryland paused to remember five colleagues killed last June before the honour was announced.

■ **FORMER warlords, women's rights activists, youth groups and tribal elders are among 250 Afghans who will meet the Taliban in Qatar on Friday. The group has snubbed president Ashraf Ghani and says it will only talk to 'ordinary' Afghans.**

■ DOZENS of Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails have ended an eight-day hunger strike over their mobile phones being jammed. Under a deal agreed with Israeli authorities, the prisoners will now be allowed three calls a week to their families from landlines.

■ **TURKEY'S ruling party AKP, led by president Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has called for a municipal election it lost in Istanbul last month to be invalidated, citing 'irregularities'. AKP and its allies won the majority of local election votes.**

Midwestern millennial: Pete Buttigieg said it was bold to run for president at his age but the US needed a new approach AP

Russia jails Norwegian nuclear submarines 'spy' for 14 years

A FORMER border inspector has been jailed for 14 years after being found guilty of spying by a Moscow court.

Norwegian Frode Berg was arrested in the city in December 2017.

He was accused of collecting information about Russian nuclear submarines for Norwegian intelligence.

Prosecutors said that Berg (pictured) was caught with documents he had received from an employee of a military facility who was shadowed by Russian intelligence.

He denies the charges and his lawyer, Ilya Novikov, has said he is the victim of a set-up. Berg, 63, had been a well-known figure in the Russian-Norwegian border area for many years, taking an active role in cultural and humanitarian exchange projects.

His lawyer told the Interfax news agency that he and his client 'do not see any point in' appealing the verdict. They would instead submit a plea for a presidential pardon from Vladimir Putin.

Berg's trial came up in talks between Mr Putin and Norwegian prime minister Erna Solberg in St Petersburg last week. Asked about a possible pardon, Mr Putin said he would wait for the verdict before deciding.

Pick of the Week

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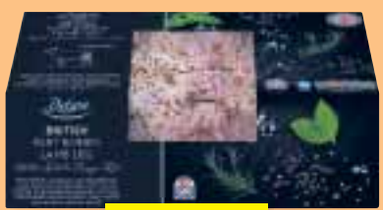

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IN BRIEF

1,000 elderly motorists nicked as Philip 'let off'

MORE than 1,000 pensioners are prosecuted for careless driving every year, a Freedom of Information request reveals. The news comes after Prince Philip, 97, was 'let off' when his Land Rover was in a crash with a Kia car near Sandringham, Norfolk. The CPS said it was not in the 'public interest to prosecute'.

Man held after 7 cops sprayed with ammonia

A POLICEMAN was last night seriously ill in hospital after being sprayed with ammonia while on a call to a domestic incident. The sergeant was among seven officers doused with the cleaning fluid in Darwen, Lancashire. A man aged 46 escaped through a first-floor window but was later arrested on suspicion of GBH.

£11bn arts 'add more to economy than farming'

THE arts and culture sector is worth £10.8billion to the UK economy and contributes more than agriculture, a report says. Arts Council England said the industry supported 360,000 jobs and adds £2.8billion a year in taxes. But it said 75 per cent of arts groups faced public funding cuts between 2009 and 2016.

Fresh take on classic Story back in spotlight

'Doomed lovers': Andy Coxon and Gabriela Garcia as star-crossed couple Tony and Maria
PICTURES: RICHARD DAVENPORT

'Easy charm': The Jets and Sharks have brand-new choreography for the vintage musical

WITH a new Broadway production and Steven Spielberg film in the pipeline, Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim's tale of star-crossed lovers is having another of its periodic moments – as indeed it should. With classic musical numbers such as Maria, America and I Feel Pretty – allied to a Romeo and Juliet storyline and set amid warring 1950s Manhattan gangs – it's basically bulletproof, somehow both feel-good and feel-incredibly-bad.

In a twist, Jerome Robbins's famous original choreography has been replaced for the first time in Sarah Frankcom's vivacious version for the Royal Exchange. It's not entirely a surprise, given it's performed in the round, but choreographer Aletta Collins finds a vibrant pace and rhythm all of her own, especially in big fight and dance scenes.

Andy Coxon and Gabriela Garcia are also just about perfect as Tony and Maria, the doomed lovers on either side of the gang divide. Garcia makes the leap between girlishly innocent ditties and passionate operatics with some skill.

There's a hugely likeable performance from Jocasta Almgill too, as her larger-than-life confidante Anita.

In fact, the easy charm of almost every Jet or Shark makes a bit of a mockery of Frankcom's idea that the inner city knife crime in West Side Story is 'horrifyingly topical'.

Yes, we know it will all lead to tragedy. But boys having a laugh about gang war to a backdrop of jaunty music feels a bit odd, and it's slightly anachronistic in 2019.

So it's probably best just to enjoy the production for what it is – not the most famous West Side Story revival this year but certainly the freshest.

REVIEW
West Side Story
Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester
★★★☆☆
by BEN EAST

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IN BRIEF

Arena bombing appeal fund reaches £21.6m

AN APPEAL launched after the Manchester Arena bombing has raised £21.6million.

Twenty-two people – many of them children – were killed by suicide bomber Salman Abedi at an Ariana Grande gig in May 2017.

Most of the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund has gone to bereaved families.

Win-a-castle raffle ban as prize offer is ditched

AN AUTHOR who advertised her £2.7million castle as a raffle prize has been banned from repeating the offer after nobody won it.

Susan DeVere, 58, sold £5 tickets on Facebook for the chance to win Orchardton Castle, near Dumfries – but gave cash prizes after raising just £107,000. She was rebuked by advertising watchdogs.

Nine-year-old pupils 'talking about suicide'

FOUR in five teachers have seen student mental health problems rise, with one warning of nine-year-olds 'talking about suicide'.

Eighty three per cent reported an increase in problems such as anxiety and self-harming in the past two years, according to the National Education Union which polled 8,674 of its members.

Hunt for 'devil' woman behind car acid attacks

by JANET HUGHES

SHE'S caused a hell of a lot of trouble... but police are having a devil of a job catching her.

A middle-aged woman who wore a devil mask and a black wig is wanted after acid was hurled over six vehicles in a village over 18 months, ruining their paintwork.

She was caught on CCTV targeting a Land Rover before her costume was later found discarded.

Footage of another attack showed a young man in a hoodie was to blame – leaving residents in St Briavels, Gloucestershire, to wonder if he is working with the woman or a copycat.

The latest victim, music teacher John Hurley, discovered his Renault Megane damaged by acid so badly that it could be a write-off.

The 73-year-old said: 'Luckily, I was aware of the previous attacks so I knew straight away what it was.

'If I hadn't known and had touched it, it would have been disastrous. I teach music and the acid would have damaged my fingers. It's devastating to think there are people in our community who could do such a thing.'

The 'tallish' masked woman caught on camera by the owners of the Land Rover Freelander was accompanied by a stout, bald middle-aged man in glasses. Police are investigating all the attacks and the Forest of Dean village's residents, who number fewer than 1,000, have offered a £2,000 reward for information leading to arrests.

Villagers have also had letters and pornographic material posted through letterboxes and catflaps in the middle of the night and think the same people may be responsible.

Parish councillor Andrew Clarke said he feared the car vandals could throw acid at a person if caught in the act. He added: 'Let's not forget this latest attack was on a 73-year-old music teacher, who was actually shaking like a leaf afterwards. They need to catch those responsible before it escalates.'

Fright: John Hurley with his damaged car and (inset) a CCTV image of the woman in a devil mask with a bottle of acid SWNS

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April 27 2019

Red card: Paul Mitchell is led away by Birmingham City stewards ACTION PLUS/GETTY

Footballer's pitch-punch yob says jail was 'the best'

by MARK CARDWELL

A FOOTBALL hooligan who ran on the pitch and punched Aston Villa star Jack Grealish is free from prison boasting it was 'the best month of his life'.

Birmingham City fan Paul Mitchell was jailed after running on the pitch and flooring the Villa captain during the derby match on March 10.

The 27-year-old, who admitted assault and encroaching on the pitch, was sentenced to 14 weeks by city magistrates but has been freed after serving just four.

Unrepentant Mitchell has refused to apologise to Grealish, 23, and speaking from his flat in Rubery, Birmingham, bragged: 'Of course I'm glad to be out.

'It was the best month of my life. It was hard being away from my family but everything was good.'

Asked if he regretted his actions, he said: 'I'm not prepared to discuss that. I'm not apologising for **nothing**.'

TV cameras caught the former pub manager sprinting on to the pitch in the tenth minute of the league match at St Andrews and flooring the midfielder with a punch from behind before being surrounded by stewards. Grealish went on to score the only goal of the game.

Flashpoint: Mitchell is seen striking Grealish, and his police mugshot SWNS/PA

Despite his bravado, staff at Mitchell's local, the New Rose & Crown, said he 'probably wouldn't be welcome' back there.

In court, chair of the bench Alison Fisher told him: 'This was an unprovoked attack on a footballer who was simply doing his job.'

Birmingham City has banned him for life while magistrates imposed a ten-year football banning order and ordered him to pay £100 to the footballer.

Parents feel pressure from perfect social media mums

SIX in ten mums and dads felt they were 'failing' during their baby's first year, a worldwide study found.

Britain has the third most anxious parents – behind Australia and New Zealand – and UK mums are twice as likely as dads to feel pressure to be perfect from social media.

Cathy Kidd, of WaterWipes – which is launching project #ThisIsParenthood to help parents' self-belief – said struggling parents were 'surrounded by false images of perfect parenting'.

I can't be on the jury for this case... I'm the judge!

A SENIOR judge was excused from jury service only because he was the judge in charge of the court.

Judge Keith Cutler told a jury: 'I was selected for jury service here at Salisbury crown court for a trial starting April 23. I thought I would be inappropriate seeing as I happened to be the judge and I knew all the papers.'

He was not excused at first but the jury summoning bureau told him he could appeal to the resident judge. He replied: 'I am the resident judge!'

METRO BITES

■ BRITAIN now has more churches than pubs. Three watering holes shut every day while immigration has led to more Evangelical and Pentecostal places of worship, found the National Churches Trust.

■ **SHEEP rustlers have stolen a flock worth £20,000 from a Dorset farm. The 211 Suffolk and Texan sheep, worth £95 each, were herded into the back of vehicles from a field close to the A37 near Dorchester.**

■ LIGHT pollution is ruining the night sky for more than half of stargazers in England. Fifty-seven per cent struggled to see ten stars, a Campaign to Protect Rural England survey of 2,300 people found.

Airline left me in tears after cancelling my hen-do flight

A BRIDE-TO-BE and nine friends are taking legal action against easyJet after a cancelled flight 'ruined' their hen party to Disneyland Paris.

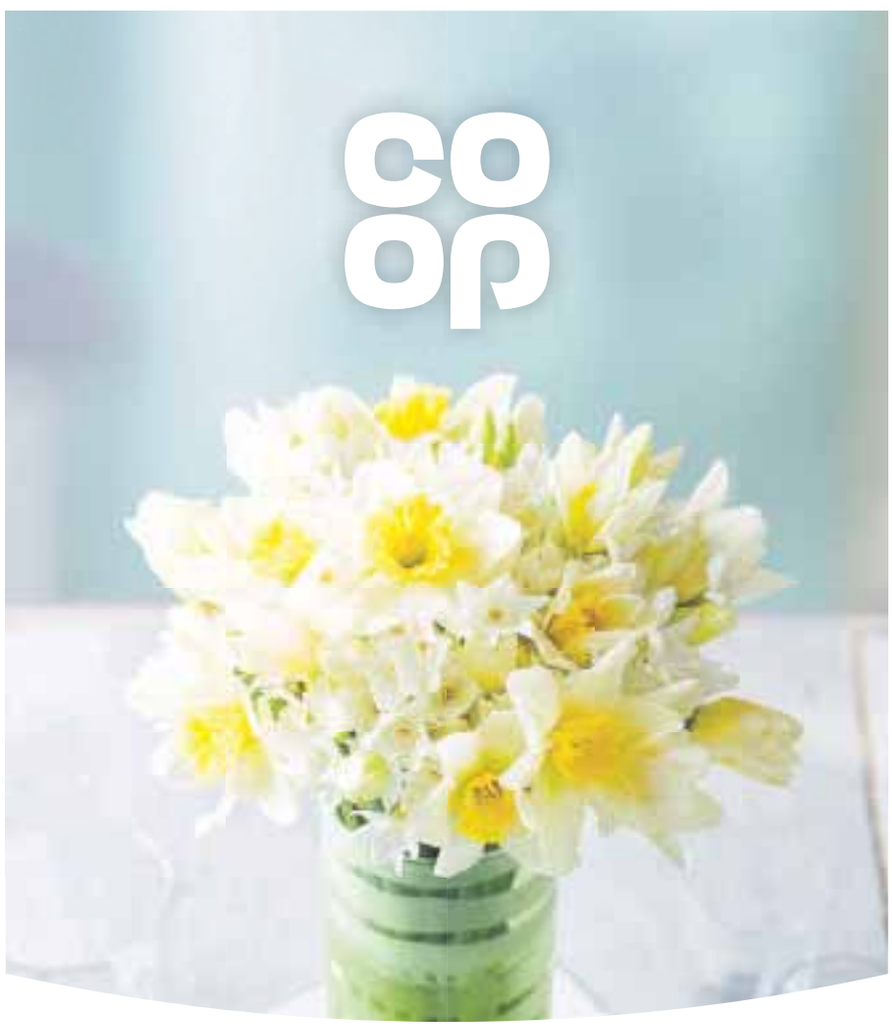
Charlotte West, 27, was being taken on a surprise trip to France, including a day at the theme park, on February 22. But the 2.45pm flight from Southend Airport was cancelled after being grounded for an hour and a half due to fog.

The group then had to pay hundreds of pounds to go by Eurostar – arriving at Disneyland at 7am, minus one of the group.

'Heartbroken' Ms West said she was left in tears, especially as five friends were waiting in France and they had pre-paid £200 for karaoke.

'Heartbroken': Charlotte West SWNS

Law firm Bott and Co. is fighting for compensation. But easyJet stated the fog-related cancellation was out of its control and it had given refunds for the flight, Eurostar travel and 'reasonable expenses'.



Easter's in full bloom with British Daffodils

Easter is better together

Daffodil Bouquet £4.00 Each. In participating stores from 14th April 2019. While stocks last.

Employment at record high after jobs surge

THE number of people working has reached a record high of 32.7million after a surge in full-time jobs and self-employment.

Employment rose by 179,000 in three months to February – the highest total since records began in 1971. The figure has increased by 457,000 over the past year, despite a 15,000 fall in part-time workers, Office for National Statistics data show.

Unemployment fell by 27,000 to 1.34million and the 3.9 per cent rate is now lower than at any time since the end of 1975.

Average earnings – now £494 a week – rose by 3.5 per cent in the year, outpacing inflation.

It's for you: Vodafone is revamping old BT phone boxes to improve services for 4G users

Disused phone boxes become mobile masts

OLD phone boxes are being turned into 4G mobile phone masts in Cornwall.

Vodafone is also testing the idea in disused BT phone boxes in busy shopping areas in Edinburgh and Oxford – and it hopes to do the same in London.

The company said visitors to the Cornish coastal villages of Polzeath and Sennen Cove will benefit from faster internet on their mobile phones and better reception when they make and receive calls within 200 yards of the revamped kiosks.

Mobile coverage remains a problem for remote and coastal areas of the country because of challenging land surfaces and a lack of fibre cables needed to link up masts.

The problem was flagged up last year by the industry watchdog Ofcom.

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Our 42-hour week is 'the longest of all EU workers'

by ALAN JONES

WORKERS in Britain are continuing to put in the longest hours in the EU, a new study shows.

Full-time employees in the UK worked an average 42 hours a week last year, almost two more than the typical EU worker, according to the TUC survey.

It reveals that a long-hours work culture is still rife despite little evidence it makes us more economically productive.

Employees in other countries, including Germany and Denmark, produce more than their counterparts over here, even though they work fewer hours, the union organisation said.

The average full-time week in Britain has shortened by 18 minutes over the past decade and, at the current rate, it would take 63 years to get the same amount of free time as elsewhere in the EU.

TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady said: 'Britain's long hours culture is robbing workers of a decent home life and time with their loved ones. As new technology changes our economy, the benefits should be shared by working people.

'That means shorter hours, more time with family and friends, and decent pay for everyone.'

The UK's 42-hour week compares with 37 in Denmark and 39 in countries such as Holland, Italy, Belgium, France, Sweden and Ireland, according to the study.

■ ASDA has been accused of leaving 3,000 supermarket staff up to £500 a year worse off under plans to end paid breaks.

The supermarket confirmed last week that talks were taking place to 'simplify' terms for hourly-paid workers, with basic pay rising from £8.21 to £9 per hour.

But the proposals will put an end to paid breaks and night shifts will also be cut.

BUSINESS BITES

■ JD SPORTS has posted record results despite high street woes. The sports retailer's revenue was up 49.2 per cent to £4.7billion in the year to February 2. Profit before tax rose 15.4 per cent to £340million.

■ **CARD FACTORY'S profits fell amid challenging high street conditions. The chain saw flat sales and profits slump 8.3 per cent to £66.6million, in the year to January 31. Revenue was up 3.3 per cent to £436million.**

■ MORE Tube strikes look likely after the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union accused bosses of preparing to cut jobs. They are already in dispute over pay after the RMT rejected a 2.5 per cent rise.

■ **SECURITY giant G4S has posted revenue growth of 4.8 per cent in the first quarter. Chief executive Ashley Almanza said it was making 'good progress' to split off its cash business to focus on security operations.**

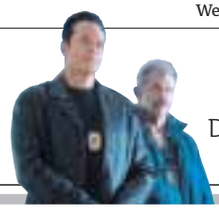
■ THE right of employees to flexible working is only fully grasped by one in four bosses, a study shows. Many fail to realise staff can ask to change their total hours, times and location, found the Chartered Management Institute.

TOURIST RATES

Australia (A$)	1.74
Canada (C$)	1.67
Euro(€)	1.10
New Zealand (N$)	1.80
Poland (zloty)	4.35
Singapore ($)	1.65
South Africa (rand)	17.26
US ($)	1.25

SCENE

MUSIC / FILM / TV / COMEDY



HARD KNOCKS
Vaughn and Gibson in Dragged Across Concrete

Film reviews **Page 26 »**

SEXY PRIESTS

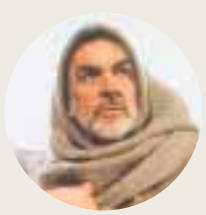
Who's that getting us hot under the dog collar? A point for each...

1. This infamous hellraiser swapped a dog called Bullseye for a dog collar – and sent a group of nuns into a frenzy

2. Granted, it's not easy taking over from an icon such as James Norton, but this new arrival is blessed with good looks

3. This Pope is a law unto himself – he recently swapped his white robes for little white trunks

4. You can bet this kung-fu-fighting rebel priest will be busying himself by saving maidens from vampires



5. Once the most eligible spy in town, he donned a monk's outfit – and modelled the only hoodie your mum will ever approve of

ANSWERS
1. OLIVER REED IN THE DEVILS **2.** TOM BRITTNEY IN GRANTCHESTER **3.** JUDE LAW IN THE YOUNG POPE **4.** PAUL BETTANY IN PRIEST **5.** SEAN CONNERY IN THE NAME OF THE ROSE

FLEABAG'S HOT PRIEST ANDREW SCOTT HAS SOME NAUGHTY PLANS THIS EASTER. HE TALKS CHOCOLATE, SEX AND HIS NEW US THRILLER WITH **LARUSHKA IVAN-ZADEH**

King of Sin

HE WON fame and a Bafta as Jim Moriarty in TV's Sherlock and rave reviews calling him the finest Hamlet of his generation – but Andrew Scott's knee-tremblingly perfect turn as 'Hot Priest' (he's never named) in BBC3's Fleabag this month has touched his fanbase in entirely new ways...

'When that priest said "kneel" my vagina exploded in a way a man has never quite been able to achieve,' tweeted comedian London Hughes after Fleabag and the Priest finally got it on at episode four and #HotPriest set Twitter alight.

'Jesus!' exclaims Scott, blasphemously, when I repeat that to him as we catch up in between his non-stop TV and radio guest appearances. 'Her vagina?! Wow. But, brilliant! I think everybody's sexual imaginations are pretty fervent and potent and the church thing obviously does it for people'.

Continued on **Page 24 »**

CAMERA PRESS/ROB GREIG

» Continued from **Page 23**

Our May Fair Hotel suite suddenly seems to get a lot warmer.

Sleek today in all black – minus the dog collar – I can confirm to all those who sent the search term 'Can priests get married?' spiking by 170 per cent on Google that Scott is, in person, well fit.

We are meant to be talking about new US indie thriller Steel Country, where he plays an obsessive garbage collector investigating a child's death, but the 42-year-old is eager to rave about Phoebe Waller-Bridge's Fleabag, season two of which is being not unreasonably acclaimed as pretty much the best telly ever.

'I don't have any reservations about how extraordinary it is,' he says. 'I loved the idea that you can be a sexual person and not be shamed for it. That we are all flawed – we have all hurt and been hurt. We are all fragile and we are not here long. I always say the purpose of art is to help you live a better life and I think Fleabag has helped people feel better.' Amen to that.

'Are you marriage material?' I ask, to which he answers that marriage was essentially a business arrangement until the mid-20th century, after which the high-pressure notion of a big romantic love that had to provide you with 'absolutely everything: financial stability, friendship, all your sexual desires, someone to have children with' took over.

'Though I think it is brilliant, I am now allowed the choice to get married,' he concludes, 'because before I didn't.' He couldn't because, as well as being smart, irreverently funny and twinklingly attractive, the Irish actor is (sorry, lady fans) also gay. Raised by Jesuits, Scott had his own issues with the church to overcome.

As an adult he's never hidden his sexuality but he also doesn't like making a big thing of it, once declaring it's not 'talent, like playing the banjo. It's just a fact'. Still, as a gay actor, his new hetero-sex symbol status is 'exciting, because it has wider implications for casting', proving his transformational abilities as an actor.

The fact that he's almost unrecognisable in Steel Country as a slack-jawed, scruffy-haired blue-collar worker in Trump's America was, he admits, a major factor in signing up. Did he go 'method' for the role?

'Oh God, no!' he exclaims, 'I am not a method guy, but I did go to Walmart and buy my costume – no item over $6 – and learn to drive the bin truck. But I will tell you I pretended to go method by eating whatever I wanted. Have you ever had Ben & Jerry's Red Velvet Cake? It's honestly the most delicious thing I've ever had.'

It seems the real-life Hot Priest's ultimate temptation is confectionery. 'I could take up the rest of your day talking about chocolate,' he laughs, effortlessly listing his top three guilty pleasures: Double Deckers, mini Jaffa Cakes and 'anything Oreo-based', before confessing: 'And there's nothing better than eating an Easter Egg out of the fridge for breakfast'. We will leave you with that sinful image. Yum.

Steel Country is in cinemas from Friday

'I loved the idea that you can be a sexual person and not be shamed for it'

Bin there, done that: Andrew Scott plays a garbage collector in Steel Country

From a dog collar to blue collar

Man of Steel: Scott stars alongside Denise Gough in the new US indie thriller

ANDREW SCOTT ANSWERS YOUR TOP THREE FLEABAG QUESTIONS

The Hot Priest backlash saw you dubbed as 'just another abuser' (The Church Times) and 'an exploitative muppet' (The Guardian). What say you?
I didn't sign up to play a perfect romantic hero. The Priest is a deeply flawed and conflicted character and he is deeply in love. The wonderful thing about Fleabag is that these things can all exist at the same time – you can be vulnerable and powerful, you can have comedy and tragedy. That's why Fleabag has touched so many people.

How did you and Phoebe Waller-Bridge generate such chemistry?
I love Phoebe (with Scott, below). I love her as a person. We both have a transgressive side, a similar sense of humour and are both incredibly romantic. At our first huge long meeting we spoke about all the damage we have caused and the burdens of hurt that we carry because none of us have behaved perfectly.

Should the Priest and Fleabag have got together?
I'm not sure. But it was very important to me that they told each other that they loved each other because I think that emancipates both of them.

EASTER WATCH SCREENTIME TREATS FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

FOR UNDER 5S
Peppa Pig: Festival Of Fun U
Little piggies can snort along to this hour of singalong cartoon fun as Peppa and pals get their muddy puddle jumping on Glasto-style. Includes ten new episodes.

5 AND UP
Wonder Park PG
Inside Out meets Alton Towers in this helter-skelter animated CGI adventure about a little girl with an ill mum who finds her dream theme park brought to life.

7 AND UP
Dumbo PG
Disney's latest live-action reboot of its own back catalogue. Tim Burton directs the beloved family tale of a little circus elephant with big ears who learns to fly.

TWEENS
Little 12A
Body-switch comedy about a bossy-boots adult (Regina Hall) who wakes up in the body of her tweenage self (Marsai Martin – who, precociously, also exec produces).

TEENS
Mid90s 15
Authentic vibes abound in this lovingly made coming-of-age tale about a 13-year-old LA skate kid. The directorial debut of Jonah 'Superbad' Hill.

This is one hell of an album

MUSIC REVIEWS

ON A hot spring night five years ago, with sweat dripping off the walls of jam-packed Brighton venue The Haunt, Fat White Family took to the stage at The Great Escape Festival and near as dammit started a riot. The knife-edge anticipation of the crowd, the seething menace of music, the baleful aura of frontman Lias Saoudi, all but naked and daubed with what one can only hope was something chocolate-related: this was rock'n'roll like mother used to hate.

With their third album, the band have put something on record to rival that extraordinary moment. Not that their previous releases have been in any way lacking – they've always had a raw feel to them. But now, with more resources at their disposal, they've crafted something exceptional, a masterpiece of woozy baroque pop and post-punk; lounge music from the anteroom of a Hieronymus Bosch hellscape.

Of all the acts expressing revulsion at the very state of us, Fat White Family are the stealthiest. They gesture at the insidious bigotries squirming just beneath the skin of British life. Saoudi, who is half Algerian, conjures up such images as white children washing up drowned on Arab shores; always in a voice that never rises above a sibilant murmur or a croon, while string and choral arrangements swell in lush harmony, then swerve into ominous discord. Around this creep the other instruments, notably the keyboards of Saoudi's brother Nathan; Saul Adamczewski's guitar, formerly at the centre of their sound, now stalks its edges like a hungry hyena. This is a chamber-pop of horrors, grisly and enthralling, invested with a sickly erotic charge.

DAVID BENNUN

ALBUM OF THE WEEK
FAT WHITE FAMILY
SERFS UP!

Domino ★★★★★

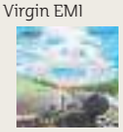
THE VERDICT
A formidable, ferocious masterpiece that swells and stirs as it burrows under the skin of British life to reveal ugly truths

Raw power: Frontman Saoudi

PIC: BURAK CINGI/REDFERNS

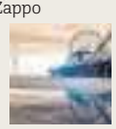
THREE MORE WE'VE LOVED THIS MONTH

The Chemical Brothers
No Geography Virgin EMI



This absolute corker feels like a party album, with a euphoric torrent of ideas and a fine turn from Norway's rising star Aurora and Japanese rapper Nene.

Bruce Hornsby
Absolute Zero Zappo



Hornsby's 11th album owes its genesis to his long-term link with director Spike Lee and the result is a record that ranges across sounds and textures, feeling both traditional and fresh.

Giuda
EVA Rise Above

On EVA (short for 'extra-vehicular activity'), the Roman quintet have mastered big beats and rocket-powered riffs. It's a foot-stamping thrill from a daft and delirious band who are renowned for their live shows.

What the critics say...
"Smells absolutely gorgeous and leaves you with soft bouncy shiny hair. Definitely a new favourite in my house"*
Fionawebster
Average score 4.8/5 stars on 4,950 reviews**
*Consumer feedback on supersavvyme.co.uk, December 2018.
**Consumer feedback on supersavvyme.co.uk, July 2018.
Herbal Essences bio:renew
40% NATURAL ORIGIN
REPAIR
argan oil of morocco
SHAMPOO
crafted with ACTIVE ANTIOXIDANT

A-listers deliver a bonkers B-movie

GRETA 15 ★★★☆☆

THIS year's 'so bad it's good' award must go to this deliriously silly psychodrama. Chloë Grace Moretz is Frances, a naive young newbie New Yorker who, when she spots a posh handbag left on the subway, returns it to its grateful owner.

Enter Greta (Isabelle Huppert), a lonely, piano-playing French widow, who imposes a sticky maternal bond that Frances finds hard to shake. Stalker alert!

That Greta stars France's greatest living actress and is directed by Oscar-winner Neil Jordan (The Crying Game) initially throws you off the scent. You'll get about a third ofthe way in before you realise it's actually a B-movie boasting A-list talent.

Beware the widow: Isabelle Huppert

Huppert, it goes without saying, is magnetic. Hilariously riffing on her own chilly on-screen persona in such critically acclaimed films as The Piano Teacher to perfection, she's blatantly having a hoot. As, hopefully, will you.

Take the cue from the scene where Huppert is trussed up à la Hannibal Lecter: this is a bonkers movie best relished with a nice chianti. **LI-Z**

Tired of waiting? Make your move NOW!

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FILM REVIEWS

Old-school cops: Vince Vaughn (left) and Mel Gibson deliver charismatic performances

VERY ANGRY WHITE MALES

THE BIG RELEASE

DRAGGED ACROSS CONCRETE 18 ★★★☆☆

BOASTING an 18 certificate, this perplexing exploitation flick sets out to sort the men from the boys. And let's face it, a film titled Dragged Across Concrete is either your cup of tea or it isn't.

Mel Gibson co-stars as an apologetically old-school cop. 'I don't politick and I don't change with the times,' he barks at his boss (Don Johnson). Which is why he's still working the street-beat with a partner 20 years his junior (Vince Vaughn).

When the two men are caught on videophone stomping on a drug dealer's head, then humiliating his naked Latino girlfriend, they're forced to hang up their badges after the footage is released to the TV news. Cue a tirade against media 'intolerance' by Gibson – who's had his own real-life share of that. However, the two ex-cops are determined to take down one last bad guy – and snatch his ill-gotten cash for themselves.

As if the casting of Gibson wasn't enough of a provocation in itself, lashings of violence, misogyny and racism are all on the menu. 'I'm not a racist', protests Vaughn's character, 'Every Martin Luther King Day I order a couple of cups of dark roast'. Ho-ho. Yet skilful film-maker S Craig Zahler leaves it unsettlingly unclear as to whether we're meant to cheer on such conservative comments or condemn them.

Given it's a warts and all study of a certain white US male viewpoint, you'll be unastonished that the few females here are either madonnas, whores or both; while a smattering of barely sketched, non-white good guys (and one gal) attempts a tokenistic sense of balance. However, Gibson and Vaughn deliver consummate, charismatic performances, particularly in the hilariously slow stakeout scenes where they share Pulp Fiction-esque bantz about foodstuffs.

Studiously controlled tension is the touchstone but at 158 minutes it feels punishingly dragged out.

LARUSHKA IVAN-ZADEH

THE VERDICT

Gratuitously un-PC grindhouser. One for Liam Neeson fans looking for a harder fix

Left cold by Judi's KGB OAP

RED JOAN 12 ★★☆☆☆

REMEMBER Melita Norwood? She was the 'granny spy' who, in 2000 was exposed for being a KGB intelligence source for more than 40 years. That she is portrayed by Dame Judi Dench (right) provides another major draw to what should be an intriguing fictionalised drama.

It's actually a major frustration because instead of giving us full Dench, this non-compelling espionage thriller, which calls the Melita character Joan, fritters away most of its time on flashbacks to her brainy but bland younger self (Sophie Cookson), who falls into bed with a young communist (Tom Hughes) while at Cambridge.

Conflict arises when Joan starts having it off with Stephen Campbell Moore (Cookson's on/off-screen squeeze), as her repressed, married British boss at a top-secret nuclear research facility. Directed by theatre legend Sir Trevor Nunn, it's as dusty as an old filing cabinet and only a tad more thrilling to watch. **LI-Z**

METRO

TV TO GO

BRINGING YOU ALL THE SHOWS YOU KNOW AND LOVE ON DEMAND

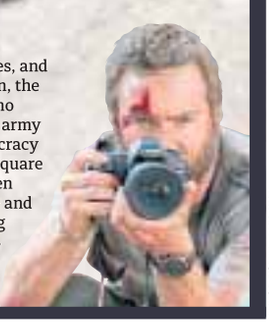
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH itv HUB

TANK MAN

C4'S NEW DRAMA CHIMERICA IMAGINES WHAT HAPPENED NEXT TO THE MAN WHO TOOK THE ICONIC IMAGE OF TIANANMEN

THERE are iconic images, and then there is Tank Man, the lone Chinese citizen who faced down a column of army tanks during the pro-democracy protests in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989. It's an image that has been burned into our memory banks — and one that Sophie Okonedo, starring

Continued on **Page 28** »



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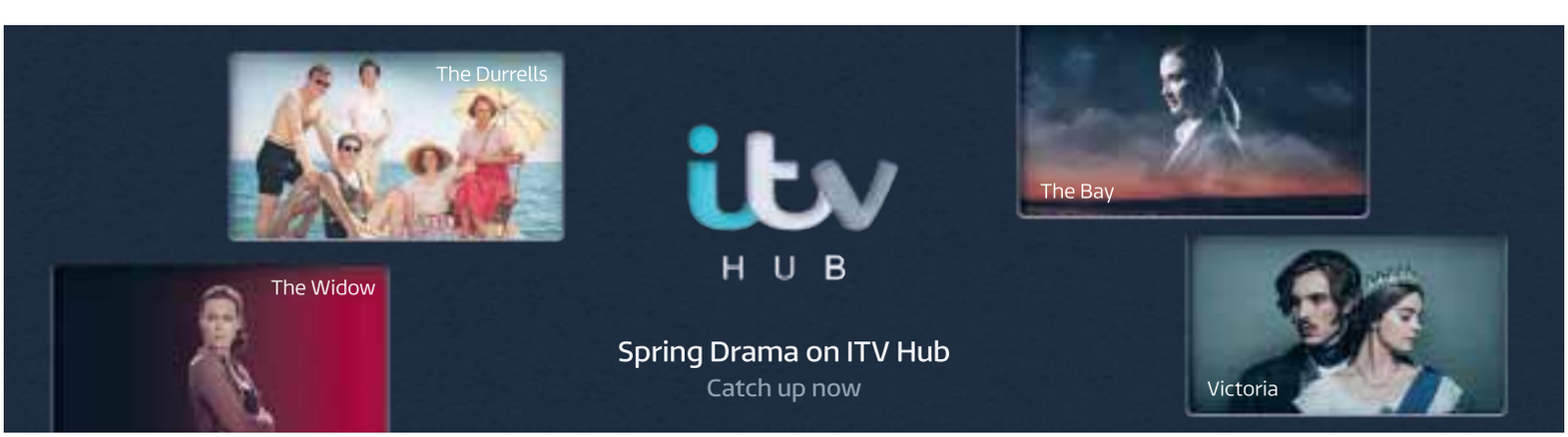


TV TO GO IN PARTNERSHIP WITH itv

WHAT TO CATCH THIS WEEK

NETFLIX

BLACK SUMMER
You know how Netflix like to be all chummy by tuning into your algorithm and popping 'helpful' suggestions into your suggestion box? Well, they've been watching us watching them – not at all creepy, really – and concluded not unnaturally that we like a bit of zombie action now and again.

So they pointed us in the direction of Black Summer, a new spin on the Z Nation franchise and starring Jaime King (above) as part of a group of suburbanite Americans hotfooting it around a nowheresville estate trying to escape from the end of the world. Or something.

The plus point is that it has sprinter zombies – those guys/gals can shift – although that's kind of not the point about zombies. They're meant to wear you down, not come on all Usain Bolt. And while this does make a change, what's lacking is any sense that we might care about what happens to the panicky folk in danger of getting chomped. Sorry, Netflix, but this is an apocalypse too far – one for hardcore zombie heads who really can't wait for the next season of The Walking Dead. Season one available now.

prime

BOSCH
Sharing its title with a white-goods manufacturer probably hasn't done this hard-boiled crime series any favours when it comes to establishing a clear-cut brand identity. Over four seasons, Titus Welliver's portrayal of Michael Connelly's downbeat LA homicide detective Harry Bosch (above) has built up a solid fanbase. Season five finds our weather-beaten anti-hero going undercover and mixed up in the opioid industry. Very trendy. Season available Friday.

BBC iPlayer

FLEABAG
Is this the last we've seen of the Phoebe Waller-Bridge's magnificently messed-up creation? There's bound to be pressure to bring her back but we'd like to think PWB (right) will go down the Fawlty Towers route and quit at two series, leaving us to our own imaginings as to how life turned out for the shameless Fourth Waller, once she left that sad bus stop. Treat yourself to the whole story – it makes a great movie. Seasons one and two available now.

DEAD PIXELS
It takes bottle to leave a primetime hit at the peak of its popularity but it's paying off for Charlotte Ritchie, who quit Call The Midwife to seek new horizons. Ritchie (above right, with Alexa Davies) is having a double comedy moment, starring in E4's gamer-based Dead Pixels and BBC1's Ghosts. We might not have been looking for a 21st-century answer to Wendy Craig but it looks as if we've found her. Episodes one to four available now, new episodes Thursdays, E4, at 9.30pm KEITH WATSON

'HE'S A NOMAD TERRIFIED OF GETTING KILLED'

» Continued from **Page 27**

GABRIEL TATE MEETS THE CAST BRINGING A 'PASSIONATE BUT NAIVE' PHOTOJOURNALIST INTO FOCUS FOR A TV TAKE ON STAGE PLAY CHIMERICA

in Chimerica, a new four-part TV drama inspired by the event, won't forget.

'I remember seeing the protests and thinking "wow" and then the tanks coming and thinking "f***",' says the actress, who plays the love interest of a war photographer who captures the shot and obsessively hunts for the lone figure decades later. In the dramatic world of Chimerica, this is fictional photojournalist Lee Berger (American Hustle's Alessandro Nivola), whose photo of Tank Man won him a Pulitzer but established a reputation he could never live up to. A desperate blunder in Syria in 2016 torpedoes Lee's career, so when he hears Tank Man may be alive, he travels to Beijing to reconnect with his contact Zhang Lin (Terry Chen), a friend battling his own demons from Tiananmen Square. Lee embarks on a quest to redeem himself.

Snappy: Ty Simpkins as a young Berger

'I liked the idea of playing somebody obsessive,' says Nivola, on the Chimerica set in west London. 'There's something both passionate and naive about Lee but he's damaged. He starts off with noble intentions but ends up destroying everything around him. I thought it would be exciting to track his descent into madness.'

Nivola spent time with veteran photographer Tony Vaccaro to understand the profession. 'War photographers are nomadic people who tend not to have many ties,' says the actor. 'They're adrenaline junkies living fairly solitary lives, terrified they're going to be killed, and missing that feeling when they

Life though a lens: Alessandro Nivola as Berger and, right, with Terry Chen as Zhang Lin

come home. Lee's apartment doesn't look very organised or lived in.'

This much is evident from our own poke around the character's gaff. The atmosphere is tense. As Nivola's journalist talks on the phone to a mysterious source claiming to have information about Tank Man, the scene instantly recalls classic 1970s conspiracy thrillers such as All The President's Men.

The Tiananmen Square protests themselves were recreated on an airfield outside Guildford — where else? — using a tank hired from a collector. 'You can't tell from the archive footage how noisy they really are, or the amount of smoke that comes out the back,' says producer Adrian Sturges. 'The idea that this man with his shopping bags would stand in front of this beast is even more moving.'

Writer Lucy Kirkwood used the incident as the inspiration for her award-winning 2013 play of the same name and updated it for TV to reflect the era of Donald Trump, fake news and clampdowns on political protest.

Set against that global turbulence, it's Okonedo's market researcher Tessa Kendrick who is at the heart of the domestic drama as Lee's on-off fling.

'I thought I'd gone beyond the age of a love interest, so that's been quite nice,' she jokes. 'Lee is someone who she would usually have thought was too chaotic but this time she's quite vulnerable after a recent divorce and fancies some excitement.'

And excitement abounds in this whip-smart and ambitious blend of thriller, romcom and political discourse – it's so real, you almost want to flee the rumble of the tanks.

Chimerica begins on Channel 4 at 9pm tonight and the series is available in its entirety on All 4

ADIE: A TIMELY SERIES

The ultimate seal of approval for Chimerica came at a screening when Kate Adie, whose reporting of the protests did so much to expose the reality of the Chinese regime, declared the show 'terrific'.

'We've come to a point where the press are essential to democracy,' she said. 'In China the regime is getting tougher and nastier – then you look at America. It matters that you get the pictures, words and the witnessing of it right.'

Troubleman: Thomas Hwan is Alf, a cop with PTSD

Time to cash in on Follow The Money

ARE you Team Alf or Team Nicky? Or even Team Anna? The magic of Danish crime thriller Follow The Money is that it offers three leading characters to root for. Much as we love Line Of Duty, you've got to be hardcore to back Team John Corbett.

First broadcast in 2016 with the unsexy title of Bedrag ('deception'), Follow The Money is now in its third season and is radically different from the first two, which centred on high finance. The focus is now on three fringe characters: mechanic turned drug dealer Nicky, PTSD-suffering cop Alf and bank worker Anna, a new face.

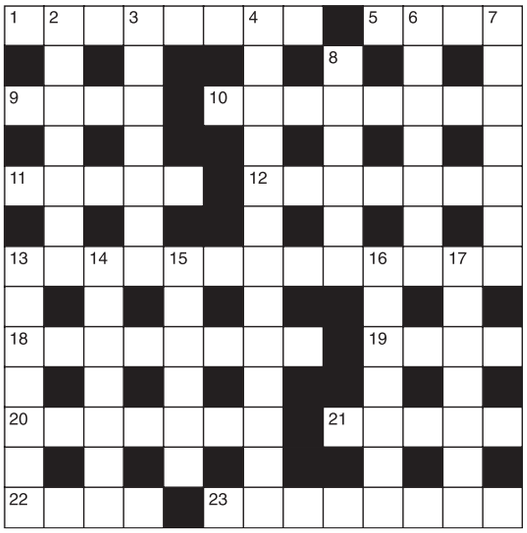
As played by Esben Smed, Thomas Hwan and Maria Rich respectively they make a compelling trio. Smed gives hardcase Nicky a magnetic presence and has been described as the Danish James Dean. Hwan and Rich match him with their nuanced takes on troubled cop and spurned worker-wife.

Once you invest in the characters, the show reaps rich rewards. Catch up as we head for what looks certain to be the soul-chilling climax. **KW**

Follow The Money is on BBC4 on Saturday at 9pm and 10pm. Catch up on iPlayer

PUZZLES

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



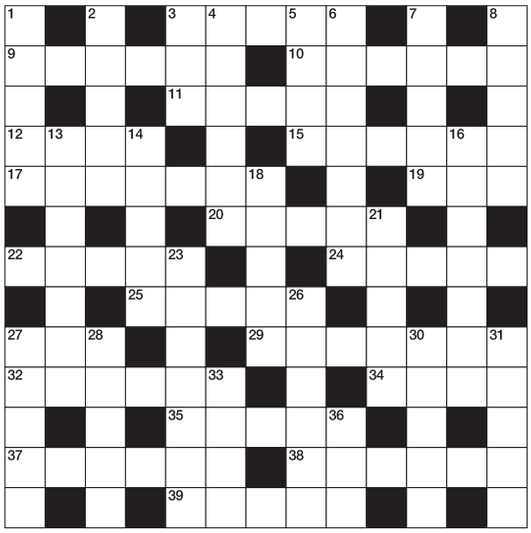
ACROSS

1. Headquarters Dance very popular in America (8)
5. Fate would bring back this emotional state (4)
9. The South American ostrich is back, by the sound of it (4)
10. Uniformed footmen (8)
11. See 14 Down
12. Nice tax change? That's not quite right (7)
13. Does he foil his pupils? (7,6)
18. To take part in an unusual start is alluring (8)
19. Opium – the aircraft is covered with it! (4)
20. The conclusions the coaches come to (7)
21. They measure distance around fifty ships (5)
22. A regulation the monarch never finishes (4)
23. Mark that will make you starry-eyed? (8)

DOWN

2. A competitor allowed to be in a different heat (7)
3. This may be tested by one who is doing a stretch (7)
4. Runways used for excursions after touch-downs (7,6)
6. Unconscious – beaten by everybody – you need to show better stamina (7)
7. Does this twinkle in the light? (7)
8. Shooting device – America would be ruined without one! (6)
13. Even more out of tune, but falsely praise (7)
14 & 11Ac. The normal sort of departure (7,5)
15. Suitable script for the Epistle to the Romans? (6)
16. They make money from what is put on a horse (7)
17. Make a statement without stopping (7)

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

3. Backbone (5)
9. School uniform item (6)
10. Await (6)
11. Hag (5)
12. Snare (4)
15. Japanese garment (6)
17. Stillness (7)
19. Pinch (3)
20. Moral principle (5)
22. Church singers (5)
24. Clan (5)
25. Tag (5)
27. Make mistakes (3)
29. Spins (7)
32. Handsome youth (6)
34. Net (4)
35. Reddish-pink colour (5)
37. Deadly (6)
38. Drinking vessel (6)
39. Riverside embankment (5)

DOWN

1. Adjoins (5)
2. Of a navy (5)
3. Stitch (3)
4. Monarch's son (6)
5. Body part (4)
6. Display (7)
7. Wading bird (5)
8. Bend forward (5)
13. Mr Gere, actor (7)
14. Danger, jeopardy (5)
16. Takes dainty bites (7)
18. Anaesthetic (5)
21. Top of milk (5)
23. Fundamental (7)
26. Find (6)
27. Premature (5)
28. Ancestry, family origins (5)
30. Educate (5)
31. Mould, pattern (5)
33. Foot part (4)
36. Sheltered side (3)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

CRYPTIC

Across: 1 Supper; 4 Amused; 9 General dealer; 10 Egoists; 11 Twine; 12 Units; 14 Sight; 18 Heron; 19 Bad form; 21 Understanding; 22 Dreamt; 23 Greens.
Down: 1 Signed; 2 Pontoon bridge; 3 Earns; 5 Maestri; 6 Selfish motive; 7 Darken; 8 Close; 13 Tantrum; 15 Should; 16 Abate; 17 Images; 20 Donor.

QUICK

Across: 5 Rubs; 7 Carbon copy; 8 Each; 10 Weep; 12 Era; 13 Brazen; 16 Flair; 18 Rex; 20 Rife; 21 Tilt; 22 Lag; 24 Nasal; 25 Refute; 26 Elf; 27 Rows; 29 Bust; 33 Evil-minded; 34 Here.
Down: 1 Bar; 2 Oboe; 3 Snap; 4 Top; 5 Rye; 6 Bacon; 9 Heart; 10 Waffle; 11 War; 13 Brine; 14 Zeta; 15 Exiles; 17 Leaf; 19 Stiff; 23 Gun; 25 Route; 27 Rump; 28 Wand; 30 Tee; 31 Nib; 32 Leo.

Metroku

EASY

8	3	1	7	9	6	5	2	4
5	4	9	3	2	8	6	1	7
7	6	2	4	1	5	8	9	3
4	1	8	6	5	9	7	3	2
2	7	5	8	3	1	4	6	9
6	9	3	2	4	7	1	8	5
3	2	6	1	7	4	9	5	8
1	5	4	9	8	3	2	7	6
9	8	7	5	6	2	3	4	1

MODERATE

3	4	2	5	6	9	8	7	1
8	7	6	4	3	1	9	2	5
5	1	9	2	8	7	4	3	6
7	2	8	9	1	5	3	6	4
1	6	4	8	7	3	2	5	9
9	3	5	6	4	2	1	8	7
4	9	3	7	2	6	5	1	8
6	8	1	3	5	4	7	9	2
2	5	7	1	9	8	6	4	3

CHALLENGING

4	9	6	1	8	7	5	2	3
3	1	5	9	2	4	7	8	6
2	7	8	3	6	5	1	4	9
9	5	7	8	3	6	4	1	2
8	2	4	5	1	9	3	6	7
6	3	1	7	4	2	9	5	8
1	6	2	4	9	3	8	7	5
5	8	9	2	7	1	6	3	4
7	4	3	6	5	8	2	9	1

METROKU MORE PUZZLES IN OUR TABLET AND PHONE EDITIONS

DIFFICULTY RATING: **EASY**

	1		5	3	7		9	
3		9				1		5
	5			6			2	
6			4		1			7
2		7				4		9
1			8		2			3
	7			1			4	
8		1				9		6
	2		3	8	4		5	

DIFFICULTY RATING: **MODERATE**

	8			1			6	
4			6		5			7
		5		4		2		
	2		9		6		5	
7		9				6		2
	6		2		8		7	
		1		6		7		
2			1		7			9
	3			9			4	

DIFFICULTY RATING: **CHALLENGING**

	6		4					
8							9	
			6	5	8			
3		2		6		1		
		8	2		5	9		
		9		4		2		6
			3	9	1			
	1							9
					4		5	

METROSCOPE by Patrick Arundell

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
This is the time to ask yourself what you want and where you are going. And while you may be pulled in other directions by responsibilities, allocating a few minutes to find answers could be a turning point that can prove significant.
For your forecast, call 0906 474 0410 (60p/min)

Taurus Apr 21 – May 21
The process of resolving past issues as well as looking to the future may be intensified. With celestial body Chiron, the healing planet, in this zone, scheduling daily chances for empowerment could be the key to attaining a long-held dream.
For your forecast, call 0906 474 0411 (60p/min)

Gemini May 22 – Jun 21
There's a shift as Mercury, your personal guide, enters Aries and your social sector. While its presence can add extra sparkle, its proximity to a more sensitive point might also see you taking stock, especially of any associations that aren't working for you.
For your forecast, call 0906 474 0412 (60p/min)

Cancer Jun 22 – Jul 23
You may become more aware of your purpose in life and how you might better accomplish it. To do so, you may need to rearrange aspects of your daily life and your routines. If you want to be someone different, you'll need to take new actions.
For your forecast, call 0906 474 0413 (60p/min)

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
As Mercury moves into Aries, it can inspire curiosity and reach out for opportunities. At the same time, as it liaises with Centaur Chiron, it could be a time to pull back the bow and reflect so you can better hit the target.
For your forecast, call 0906 474 0414 (60p/min)

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
You may be very keen on the idea of creating a shift in your life, which can help you reach your full potential. Have you held yourself back? If so, it's time to gently process through these sticking points so you can be your best.
For your forecast, call 0906 474 0415 (60p/min)

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 23
It's in your nature to meet others halfway, as you relish being part of a relationship. Forging good partnerships is often fuel for your fire. You can overdo it, though. So, if you are uncertain about any of your associations, it may be time to gently remedy this.
For your forecast, call 0906 474 0416 (60p/min)

Scorpio Oct 24 – Nov 22
There are times when you can think too much about things and this can prevent you from getting anything done. You may find this more of an issue now. However, as Mercury moves into Aries, it can encourage you to be spontaneous.
For your forecast, call 0906 474 0417 (60p/min)

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 21
You may be fired up and ready for new adventures. At the same time, you might wonder why you have a desire to make a bold move and yet shy away from taking that first step. Perhaps tackling things a little at a time is the best way forward.
For your forecast, call 0906 474 0418 (60p/min)

Capricorn Dec 22 – Jan 20
With two demanding planets in your sign, it is hard not to have big expectations. Even so, the more you push yourself, the more your vulnerable side could be triggered. This may be why finding a balance between self-care and ambition is key.
For your forecast, call 0906 474 0419 (60p/min)

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Is there something you want to discuss that you find difficult? If so, a shift in focus encourages you to consider broaching the subject. It may be that you have given too much thought to how the other person will respond.
For your forecast, call 0906 474 0420 (60p/min)

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
With a focus on your sector of resources, the question you may be asking yourself is how can you manage your money better? With a lively influence at work in your financial zone from today, this thought may become more persistent.
For your forecast, call 0906 474 0421 (60p/min)

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Jaw-dropping: A space view of Venice

NEW Earth From Space
BBC1, 9pm (11.05pm Scotland)
If you need balm for your soul following the dire warnings from David Attenborough on Our Planet, then here it is – a chance to take the long view as space satellite cameras show us what we'd see if we got to be astronauts. Yes there's an ecological subtext to some of the commentary (from Chiwetel Ejiofor) but what sticks in the mind is the jaw-dropping beauty on display.

TV CHOICE

THE BEST OF THE REST ON TONIGHT

Inside John Lewis: Profits & Problems
Channel 5, 9pm
The Never Knowingly Undersold store throws open its doors for a doc that, while not quite warts and all, doesn't fight shy of confronting the challenges facing the 21st-century high street. Even more than the ravens fleeing the Tower of London, if John Lewis ever goes down, then the game really is up for the UK.

The Bay ITV, 9pm
Be sure your sins will find you out, as my old mum used to say. That hits home for DS Lisa Armstrong (Morven Christie) tonight as that reckless shag back in episode one – and the cover-up that followed it – comes back to haunt her.

Island Of Dreams BBC2, 10pm
The treasonous scallywags behind The Windsors take a cheeky pop at Richard Branson in this celeb-filled spoof starring Harry Enfield as His Virgin-ness, backed up by cameos from Al Murray as Greg Wallace, Samantha Spiro as a foul-mouthed JK Rowling and many more.

KEITH WATSON

Rapid rise: Archer in action for Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League yesterday, where he took three wickets but finished on the losing side
PICTURE: AP

Woakes questions Archer selection

by GAVIN BROWN

ENGLAND are set to name the uncapped Jofra Archer in their provisional squad for the World Cup today, despite the misgivings of some of his new team-mates.

National selector Ed Smith will name an initial group of 15, alongside an expanded squad of 17 for the preceding series against Pakistan, with the newly-qualified Archer, 24, set for his maiden call-up.

The Barbados-born Sussex paceman – an eye-catching 90mph bowler – is the only new name in the squad for this summer's tournament in England, which begins on May 30.

His inclusion, after just 14 one-day matches at any level and having only recently qualified for England on residency grounds, is not without controversy, with fast bowler Mark Wood last week suggesting it could affect the 'dynamic' of the squad.

'If he (Archer) was to come in and someone was to miss out, it would be extremely unfortunate,' all-rounder Chris Woakes told BBC Sport. 'We have been a tight-knit group for the last two to three years, played some really strong cricket.

'Apart from a personal level, I wouldn't want to see any of my mates and team-mates miss out.'

Asked if picking Archer ahead of a player who has been part of England's plans for some time was fair, Woakes added: 'Fair probably is not the right word. It probably wouldn't be fair, morally, but at the same time it's the nature of international sport.'

World Cup rules allow teams to make alterations up until May 22, meaning Smith's pronouncement is not yet final. Should Archer be included but fare poorly in his early outings he could be unceremoniously ditched at the last minute, a fate that awaits someone else if the Sussex player is held in reserve at first and excels from the off.

Tom Curran and David Willey appear to be the seamers most likely to feel the heat, though the latter's status as a left-arm option and the most consistent swinger of the Kookaburra ball may tip the scales in any head to head.

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If Archer was to come in and someone was to miss out, it would be extremely unfortunate
CHRIS WOAKES (BELOW)

ENGLAND'S PROVISIONAL SQUAD

(Possible): Eoin Morgan (c), Jason Roy, Jonny Bairstow, Joe Root, Jos Buttler (wkt), Ben Stokes, Alex Hales, Joe Denly, Moeen Ali, Chris Woakes, Jofra Archer, Liam Plunkett, Adil Rashid, David Willey, Mark Wood.

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

RACING NEWS, VIEWS AND TOP TIPS

in association with CORAL

Charlie keen to learn if Zak's on the right track

CHARLIE APPLEBY expects to have a clearer idea of Zakouski's capabilities after he runs in the Craven Stakes at Newmarket today.

The colt made a big impression on his only previous racecourse outing at Kempton in November – but his trainer admits his charge has far more on his plate as he steps up to Group Three level in this recognised trial for next month's 2,000 Guineas.

It is another Godolphin runner, Saeed bin Suroor's Group One-winning colt Royal Marine, who sets the standard.

However, it is perhaps indicative of the regard in which Zakouski is held that bookmakers make him the marginal favourite today – while he is an 8/1 shot for the Guineas itself.

'He's fit and well – and like a lot of horses who have won their maiden, he's now got to go and take the next step,' said Appleby. 'Saeed's horse is the one we all have to beat.

'He brings Group One form into the race and we've all got to raise our game to get to his level. We'll see where we stand afterwards.'

Royal Marine won two of his three starts as a juvenile but disappointed on the dirt at Meydan in January. Trainer Bin Suroor said: 'We hope he'll have a good season back in Europe on the turf. He's a tough horse. He is doing good and has been working well.'

Zakouski is one of five unbeaten colts in the field along with Gay Kelleway's Global Spectrum, Tom Dascombe's Jackstar, Hugo Palmer's Set Piece and the William Haggas-trained Skardu.

Big reputation: Zakouski won on his debut at Kempton

TIP OF THE DAY
FRASER ISLAND
3.25 BEVERLEY

6/1F (from 40/1) Qabala for next month's 1,000 Guineas after Roger Varian's filly won yesterday's Nell Gwyn Stakes at Newmarket in fine style

STABLE BITES

■ JOHN GOSDEN said a decision on Too Darn Hot's participation in the 2,000 Guineas could be made early next week. The unbeaten colt was found to have heat in a splint bone, a setback which ruled him out of last Saturday's Greenham Stakes at Newbury. Gosden said: 'The heat is pretty well out of it now but I just want to be content that I've got the two clear weeks in which to bring him up to the race (the 2,000 Guineas).'

■ KEVIN RYAN'S top-class sprinter Brando bids for a third successive win in today's Abernant Stakes at Newmarket. 'He comes to hand early each year – and he just likes Newmarket,' said the trainer (pictured).

■ AYR, which staged the Scottish Grand National last weekend, has cancelled its two-day Flat meeting later this month due to drainage work. The British Horseracing Authority said fixtures scheduled for April 29 and 30 will not take place because 'areas of the Flat track are not raceable'.

17 Remaining contenders, including Cheltenham Festival winners Duc Des Genievres and A Plus Tard, for the Ryanair Gold Cup at Fairyhouse on Sunday

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‘I want to fight the best and be the best’

Q&A
Amir Khan

Interview by Matthew Nash

The Briton, 32, challenges American Terence Crawford for the WBO world welterweight title at Madison Square Garden in New York on Saturday night

PICTURE: GETTY

Winning feeling: Khan celebrates his victory over Samuel Vargas in September

How does it feel to be back headlining in the States for the first time in three years?
I’m so happy to be in this position. The biggest fights of my career have been in America – for me it is the Mecca of boxing. Everyone thinks about Madison Square Garden when they start out in boxing and it’s brilliant I can still get these big fights.

What do you make of some fans questioning you taking the Crawford fight over Kell Brook?
I can pick and choose my fights, I know people were upset they haven’t got to see the Brook fight yet but this is the bigger one in my opinion. You can’t knock me for taking it – I want to fight the best and be the best.

Will you still fight Brook before you retire?
I’ve not heard from Kell or his team ahead of this fight. All I can do is wish him all the best. He would have done the same thing in my position. You can’t say no to fighting Terence Crawford, it’s a massive fight and when it was put to me I knew what was at stake. Winning will cement my legacy and make me one of the all-time greats of British boxing.

Critics question how much you have got left. Are you close to the end now?
I still have speed, power and energy. I’ll let them see on the night and they can tell me what I was like. People can say what they want. I’ve always said I want to retire young but I will see how I feel. I will call it quits before I get in tough fights and get hurt. But this challenges me and having a fight like this is the best feeling ever.

Did you consider quitting for good after losing to Saul ‘Canelo’ Alvarez in 2016?
No, never, I never ever thought about it. There were days when I was really miserable and upset about the loss but I came back from it. Canelo’s a great fighter and so many things have gone on with him (in 2018 the Mexican was banned for six months for failing two drugs tests) but I never used any of that as an excuse.

Any nerves about fighting a man widely regarded as one of the best pound-for-pound fighters out there?
I always have nerves before a big fight but I know I’m in the best condition I’ve ever been in. I’m basically going to war. A win could really change the direction my career is going in.

Does criticism hurt you?
I’ve always had love and hate throughout my career and it does get me down at times. Things can upset you and get you down but I can also just switch off from social media. People will respect me when I retire from boxing – at the moment it’s not always like that.

Do you see yourself as a role model for others to follow?
I’m opening the door – especially for Asian kids. I hope young versions of me are out there. It’s a great time for young Asian kids to get into sport and a myth it’s harder being Asian. I’m the prime example of that. My cousin Sajid Mahmood has also done it at the highest level in cricket for England.

■ Amir Khan challenges Terence Crawford for the WBO world welterweight title, live on BT Sport Box Office, this Saturday. For information go to www.bt.com/btsportboxoffice

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SPORT IN BRIEF

Gone in 60 minutes! Campenaerts breaks Sir Brad’s one-hour best

CYCLING

SIR Bradley Wiggins’ one-hour world record has been broken by Belgian Victor Campenaerts.

The Lotto Soudal rider (pictured) covered 55.089 kilometres in his record attempt at the Aguascalientes velodrome in Mexico.

Wiggins’ record, set in London in June 2015, was 54.526km and Campenaerts said: ‘I really focused on this for a long time and I’m super happy. I’m also happy to break 55km.’

Norrie has no worries in Monaco

TENNIS

CAMERON NORRIE is through to the second round of the Monte Carlo Masters after a straight-sets victory over Frenchman Adrian Mannarino.

The 23-year-old Briton prevailed 6-4, 6-3 on the clay in Monaco. He faces Marton Fucsovics next after the Hungarian was a surprise winner against 12th-seed Nikoloz Basilashvili.

Wakefield to let their returning Cat loose on Cas

RUGBY LEAGUE

WAKEFIELD have signed winger Mason Caton-Brown for a second time on a deal until the end of the season.

The 25-year-old goes straight into the team for tomorrow’s derby at Castleford. Coach Chris Chester said: ‘Mason knows what we’re all about and we know what Mason is all about.’

£107m

Four-year contract Russell Wilson has signed with the Seattle Seahawks, making him the highest paid player in the NFL

Billy urged to take Care after dodging sanctions

by JOHN PAYNE

BILLY VUNIPOLA has been told by a fellow England player to keep his views to himself after being formally warned by the Rugby Football Union for defending Israel Folau's homophobic comments.

Israel Folau was sacked by Rugby Australia for a social media post saying 'hell awaits homosexuals' while Vunipola later posted in support of the devout Christian: 'Man was made for woman to pro create that was the goal no?'

The RFU said Vunipola had expressed 'genuine regret' after being summoned for talks but while neither the sport's governing body or his club Saracens have imposed further sanctions, his opinions have been criticised by scrum-half Danny Care.

'The game of rugby that I fell in love with, and the sport that I love is an all-inclusive game,' Care (below), capped 84 times by England, told the BBC.

'It doesn't matter your race, your sex, your sexual preference, your ethnicity... it's about the game of rugby and the things

If you're a rugby player and a pretty famous one, keep your opinions to yourself

it has taught me – inclusivity, teamwork, respect, discipline. If you're a rugby player and a pretty famous one, keep your opinions to yourself.'

The RFU said Vunipola's warning would stay on his disciplinary record for five years but he is available for England ahead of this autumn's World Cup in Japan.

'During the meeting the player expressed genuine regret at his public comments and understood that he had caused hurt and offence,' read an RFU statement.

'He has been reminded of his responsibilities as an England player and as an ambassador for the game, which values inclusivity and respect.'

Although Vunipola, whose mum is a Methodist minister, clarified his position in a statement, his original post remains visible on Instagram.

'My intention was never to cause suffering,' he said. 'My intention was to express my belief in the word of God. I live with kindness and love towards all people.'

Centre of attention: Vunipola trains with Saracens yesterday PICTURE: GETTY

Simple recovery: Youngs

Ben ready to bounce back from operation

BEN YOUNGS expects to be fully involved in England's World Cup training camp after revealing he was left with no option but to have shoulder surgery.

It was announced earlier this month the Leicester Tigers player would need three months of rehabilitation after a procedure to repair damage caused in the Six Nations climax against Scotland.

That was an alarming development as Youngs is firmly established as England coach Eddie

85
Caps Youngs has won for England – he started all five of their Six Nations games earlier this year

Jones' first-choice scrum-half.

Having had the operation though, the 29-year-old should be available for the four warm-up Tests that precede the tournament in Japan, the first against Wales on August 11.

'At the time I felt it but thought it was okay and it would settle,' said Youngs. 'I then had it scanned, went and saw the specialist, and he said "you just can't play".

'I saw him at 12.30 and was being operated on at two o'clock so it all happened pretty quickly.

'You never want to miss games but it happened and I didn't really have a choice in it.

'But it should be 12 weeks and a pretty simple recovery time, provided there are no hiccups.'

YOUR GUIDE TO ALL THE WEEKEND FOOTBALL ACTION SPONSORED BY Ladbrokes
MATCHZONE

Ten-man Hornets must be proud, insists Craig

CRAIG CATHCART believes Watford can be proud of their performance on Monday despite suffering a 1-0 defeat to Arsenal after having skipper Troy Deeney sent off early on.

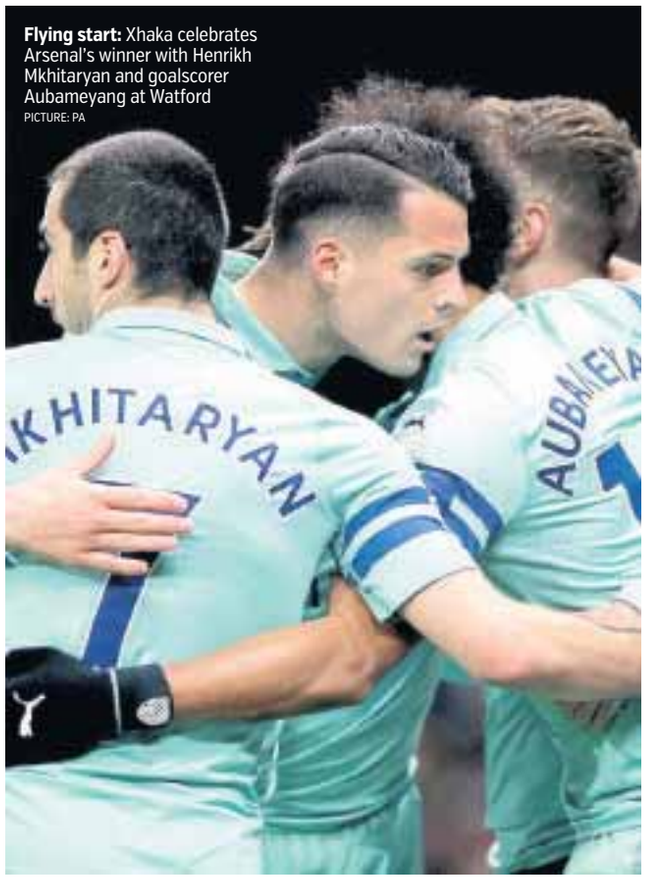
The Hornets were playing their first game since sealing a place in the FA Cup final with an extra-time Wembley win over Wolves.

Watford boss Javi Gracia said after the game he was unsure why Deeney was dismissed (pictured) but will have been pleased with the effort of his players to remain in the contest.

Northern Ireland defender Cathcart said: 'I don't think this will affect us at all. We've put in a great performance given the way things went in the first 15 minutes.

'We can be proud of how we played. It was difficult and we had to run a lot but we can be very proud of ourselves.

'We had ten men but if anything it looked like they had the ten men. We had more possession, we had decent opportunities to score and we're really disappointed coming off the pitch with nothing from the game.'



Flying start: Xhaka celebrates Arsenal's winner with Henrikh Mkhitaryan and goalscorer Aubameyang at Watford
PICTURE: PA

Xhaka won't allow Europa push to block his four-sight

by JOHN PAYNE

GRANIT XHAKA has admitted Arsenal would rather finish in the top four of the Premier League than win the Europa League this season.

The Gunners are back up to fourth, ahead of Chelsea on goal difference and with a game in hand, after Monday's unconvincing 1-0 win at Watford.

Manager Unai Emery is looking to secure a return to the Champions League after a two-year absence in his first season in charge but he also has history in

> **Of course the Europa League is nice but for us it is the Premier League first**

the Europa League, having won the competition three times with Sevilla.

Midfielder Xhaka, 26, is in no doubt about the top priority, even though the Europa League winners get automatic entry into the elite competition and the Gunners head to Italy for tomorrow's Europa League quarter-final, second leg against Napoli holding a 2-0 lead. 'We want to stay in the top four – we want to be back in the Champions League,' Xhaka said. 'For me, the Premier League is first and after if you can go to the final and take the Europa League.

'Of course it is nice as well but for us it is the Premier League first.

'We are now in fourth place, two points over United, one game less than Chelsea and one point behind Tottenham and they play Manchester City next week. It can be a big, big weekend for us.'

Arsenal made hard work of beating the Hornets after Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's early goal. Watford captain Troy Deeney was sent off moments later.

But Xhaka believes points are more important than performances after a rare away win, adding: 'I don't care if we win 1-0 or 6-0, it is three points.

'For me, it is better if you play like this and you win than when we have played away and played better games but not taken the three points.

'I am happy for this performance but most important is the three points.'

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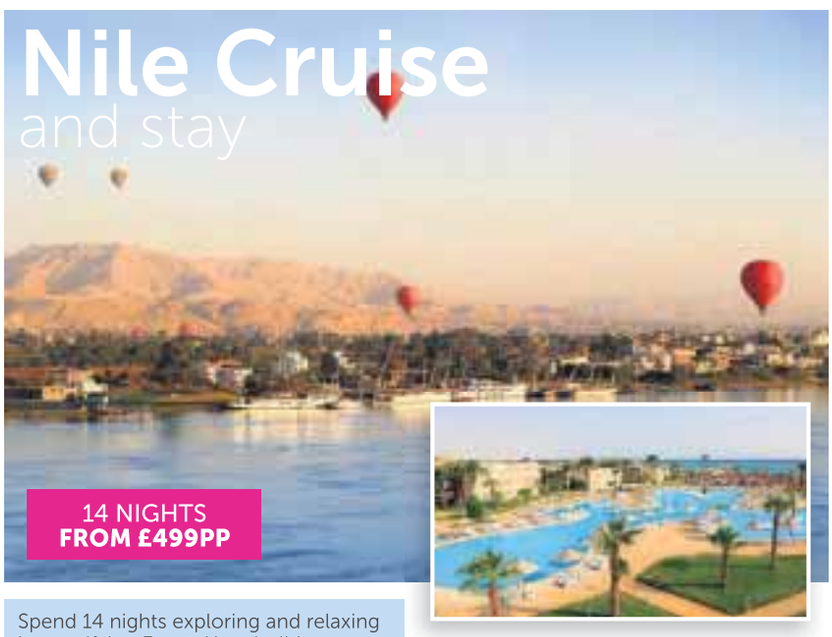

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QUARTER-FINAL, SECOND LEG, 8PM, BT SPORT 3

PORTO (0) LIVERPOOL (2)

Focused Klopp wary of Conceicao 'compliment'

by JUSTIN PALMER

JURGEN KLOPP laughed off Sergio Conceicao's suggestion that his Liverpool side can sometimes play like the best team in the world before the two resume battle tonight.

The Reds are aiming to dump Porto out of the Champions League for a second year running and go into the second leg of their quarter-final at the Estadio do Dragao leading 2-0 from last week's first leg at Anfield.

Klopp took Porto boss Conceicao's 'compliment' with a pinch of salt last night. 'Sometimes we are really good, it's true,' he said.

'Hopefully we can show it again. It's probably meant as a compliment but we still know we have a really tough job to do and probably he said as well he believes in their chances too. Did he say that? Yes, then it's all good.'

For all the talk of a potential Manchester City Quadruple, Liverpool are still eyeing a Premier League and Champions League double and James Milner said they needed to deliver for words like Conceicao's to carry weight.

'It's a compliment and you get those

> **We have a tough job to do and probably he said he believes in their chances too**

compliments by playing good football over a sustained period of time,' he said. 'But to be that you have to win trophies and that's something we haven't done yet. It's something we're trying to do this season.'

Milner knows about turning potential into silverware after helping City secure Premier League glory before joining Liverpool and he believes the Reds have taken important steps over the last 12 months.

'I think there's a confidence within the squad but there's not over-confidence and that's very important,' he added. 'There are going to be times when you're not playing your best football. I think that's impressed me more than when we're playing well.

'We all know how well we can play. This year it's when we haven't played as well and we've had to grind it out and keep going to get that 90th-minute winner or dig out a clean sheet.

'There isn't much talk in the dressing room about what might happen. It's how we've been all season. The mentality going into games is the same.'

PICTURE: GETTY

Dragon's den: Andy Robertson, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Adam Lallana at Porto's Estadio do Dragao

WORLD-BEATERS LIVERPOOL DO IT MY WAY, ADMITS PORTO MANAGER

PORTO coach Sergio Conceicao hailed Liverpool as the best team on the planet at times this season, even as he tries to plot their downfall in the Champions League.

The Reds are in Portugal for their quarter-final, second leg against Porto 2-0 up from the first leg and Conceicao said: 'Liverpool are all about the way that I think about football.

'I like the Liverpool dynamics, their game model. I like the way they play with the ball and without – it's similar to how I see football. In my opinion, in a lot of these moments they are the best team in the world.'

While Conceicao (pictured) can look forward to home advantage, he knows an away goal for the visitors could end the tie.

'The match is difficult to prepare for, not only because it is 2-0 but also because Liverpool are very strong in attack,' he added.

'The balance we will need when we are attacking will be fundamental so that we do not concede any more goals.'

Barnsley complaint over Barton 'bust-up'

LEAGUE ONE

BARNSLEY have lodged a formal complaint with football chiefs over Joey Barton as South Yorkshire Police continue to investigate the Fleetwood manager's alleged tunnel bust-up with Tykes boss Daniel Stendel.

Although Barton took training at the Lancashire club yesterday, he remains in the spotlight following Cauley Woodrow's accusation his manager was 'physically assaulted' with 'blood pouring from his face' in a tweet the Barnsley striker later deleted.

Later on Saturday evening, footage emerged of Barton attempting to leave Barnley's Oakwell ground, only for the car he was travelling in to be stopped by police in the stadium's car park.

'Barnsley Football Club can confirm that it has lodged a formal complaint to both the English Football League and the Football Association,' read a club statement. 'This is following an alleged incident at the conclusion of the match on Saturday, between Joey Barton and Daniel Stendel.

'The club is also currently working with the police and assisting with all enquiries regarding the incident. No further comment will be issued whilst police investigations are ongoing.'

Saturday's game ended in a 4-2 win for Barnsley. The Fleetwood job is Barton's first managerial position. He took up the role last summer.

In the spotlight: Barton

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

Staying put: Shan

Shan to stay in Baggies post for rest of season

WEST BROM caretaker manager Jimmy Shan will remain in charge until the end of the season.

The 40-year-old has overseen four wins in six games for the fourth-placed Baggies, who sacked Darren Moore last month.

Shan said: 'I'm happy that we can now move forward with clear planning and direction for the remainder of the season.

'It enables us to crack on with a clear target in our sights.'

Scholes faces FA charge on betting allegations

FORMER Manchester United midfielder Paul Scholes has been charged with misconduct by the Football Association in relation to its betting rules.

The 44-year-old (pictured) is alleged to have placed 140 bets on matches between 2015 and 2019.

An FA statement read: 'Paul Scholes has been charged with misconduct in relation to the FA's Betting Rules.'

■ **WEST Ham midfielder Robert Snodgrass has been suspended one-match after an Independent Regulatory Commission found him guilty of misconduct towards UK Anti-Doping officials, says the Football Association. He didn't refuse to be tested, it is believed.**

FAI board set to step down in Delaney row

THE board of the Football Association of Ireland has indicated it will step down, Minister for Sport Shane Ross has told a parliamentary committee.

The FAI has been in the spotlight since it emerged former chief executive John Delaney provided it with a bridging loan in April 2017.

Ross said: 'I welcome that the FAI is engaging with Sport Ireland in a process, and that they have now indicated the board will step down.'

■ **CELTIC'S European Cup-winning captain Billy McNeill is to be honoured by Athletic Bilbao for his 'faithful service' to the Hoops under the La Liga club's 'One Club Man Award'.**

QUARTER-FINAL, SECOND LEG

MAN CITY (0)

THE TIPSTER

@tipstermetro

7/10
Don't miss Paris Saint-Germain to win at Nantes in Ligue 1 this evening with William Hill

5/2
Royal Marine (Bet365) to win today's Craven Stakes 2,000 Guineas trial at Newmarket

FINGERS ON BUZZERS... WILL HOSTS KEEP QUADRUPLE BID ALIVE IN ETIHAD EPIC?

YOUR starter for ten tonight is, can Manchester City keep a clean sheet against Tottenham?

And the next question for a bonus point is whether or not Pep Guardiola's side are starting to feel the heat as they chase the Quadruple?

Even the boffins on University Challenge will struggle to work out those brain-teasers before tonight's Champions League showdown at the Etihad Stadium. Spurs hold a slender 1-0 lead after cashing in our 16/5 bet last Tuesday and are 13/10 with Ladbrokes to qualify while Heung-min Son is 3/1 with Bet365 to hit the net. City are 4/6 to reach the semi-finals with Sky Bet and Raheem Sterling (left) is 9/2 to score the first goal (SportNation). Best bet is both teams to score (5/6 Betway).

13/2
James Milner (above) to score for Liverpool in Porto tonight (RedZone). Jurgen Klopp's team to win is 23/20 (Betfred)

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Pep talk: Guardiola has appealed to City's fans ahead of tonight's tie
PICTURE: AFP

PEP TELLS CITY FANS TO BRING THE NOISE

GUARDIOLA INSISTS HE IS 'CURIOUS' TO SEE HOW MUCH HELP SUPPORTERS CAN GIVE HIS MEN IN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TIE

by MATTHEW NASH

PEP GUARDIOLA has pleaded for Manchester City's supporters to roar his side into the Champions League semi-finals tonight by creating a wall of sound at the Etihad Stadium.

City host a Tottenham side holding a 1-0 first-leg lead and, despite fans' perceived apathy towards the competition and governing body Uefa, boss Guardiola wants their backing.

The club have been unable to fill the stadium entirely for matches and boo the Champions League anthem before kick-off, sometimes struggling to generate the sort of atmosphere at Spurs' new ground last week.

Guardiola wants tonight's quarter-final tie to be like January's Premier League win over title rivals Liverpool. 'The Liverpool game would be enough for me, a little bit better,' said Guardiola. 'We need it.

'Do it for the guys – the last 20 months, they are so proud with what they have done but they are human beings. They will have bad moments in the games and at that moment we need our supporters.

'At this stage, without supporters, we cannot go through. I'm expecting.

'I'm really curious to see how our fans are going to react.'

The Spaniard twice guided Barcelona to European Cup glory but was unable to repeat that at Bayern Munich. He appeared to address City's fans directly yesterday as he addressed his 'failure' to reach the last four with the club – so far.

'Sorry guys, I'm a failure in this competition but many times I played in the semi-final and quarter-finals and every time I played away the atmosphere was really incredible. They support their local teams,' he added.

'We need it. Really, we need it. I want

> **At this stage, without supporters, we cannot go through. I'm expecting**

to see that they want to get to the semi-finals. Not the players, the players no doubt after 20 months.

'I want to see my fans, our fans, that they really want the semi-finals.'

Guardiola warned of the consequences of losing to Spurs in back-to-back games this week. The teams will meet again on Saturday in the league.

'If we don't win these games we'll be out of two competitions. They are absolute finals for us, I've had that feeling from weeks ago,' he said.

No cast off: Alli was put through his paces at the Etihad Stadium last night PICTURE: PA

We can still be Quads in come May, says Stones

JOHN STONES believes the Quadruple isn't an impossible dream for Manchester City this season.

Pep Guardiola's team need to overturn a 1-0 first-leg deficit against Tottenham in the Champions League tonight to keep their bid for an unprecedented clean sweep of trophies alive.

City trail 1-0 on aggregate midway through the quarter-final tie after defeat in north London last week.

But centre-back Stones said: 'I don't think a lot of things are impossible, that is the mindset of different people.

'If you don't dream big, then you are not going to get anywhere near it. It comes from within everyone, we have this belief and ambition to do it.'

City are also involved in a battle for the Premier League title with Liverpool and England defender Stones is confident City can hit their stride in the final weeks of the season.

He added: 'These sort of games bring out the best in us. We have to trust in ourselves and our team-mates and perform on whatever day we have a game.' City midfielder Fernandinho is hoping to prove his fitness after missing Sunday's 3-1 win at Crystal Palace with a muscular problem but he has been training at 'low intensity', according to boss Guardiola.

Left-back Oleksandr Zinchenko (hamstring) is unlikely to feature but forwards Sergio Aguero (pictured with Leroy Sane) and Raheem Sterling are fit despite minor injury concerns.

HUGO VOWS SPURS WILL DO WHAT IT TAKES ON A PAINFUL EVENING

CAPTAIN Hugo Lloris says Tottenham are 'ready to suffer' to see off Manchester City in the Champions League quarter-finals.

Spurs head to the Etihad tonight with a 1-0 first-leg lead, thanks to a penalty save from Lloris and a late goal from Heung-min Son, but City are still favourites to reach the last four.

However, the clean sheet Lloris kept in their home leg means if Spurs can find the net in Manchester, City would need three to go through.

Spurs will come under huge pressure against Pep Guardiola's men, but Lloris (pictured), who saved Sergio Aguero's penalty last week, is prepared for it.

'It's all about the mentality, the spirit, to have the same idea of football together,' Lloris said. 'Then of course we are ready to suffer but we know we can make the game difficult for them too. It's just about enjoying being at this stage of the competition, ready to compete.'

Spurs, already without Harry Kane, will miss Harry Winks who is out with a groin injury. But Dele Alli has trained with a cast over the broken hand he suffered in the first leg while Erik Lamela is also available.

Spurs boss Pochettino said of Alli: 'We'll have the last training session then decide if he starts or is on the bench.'

THEY SAID IT

'He knows a lot about football, we need to respect him, he was a great team-mate at PSG. Why not?'

Mauricio Pochettino says Ronaldinho could be proven right after the former Brazil star backed Spurs to win the Champions League

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QUARTER-FINAL, SECOND LEG

BARCELONA 3

MESSI 16, 20, COUTINHO 61

BARCELONA WIN 4-0

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
LIVERPOOL	34	26	7	1	77	20	85
MAN CITY	33	27	2	4	86	22	83
TOTTENHAM	33	22	1	10	64	34	67
ARSENAL	33	20	6	7	66	40	66
CHELSEA	34	20	6	8	57	36	66
MAN UTD	33	19	7	7	63	44	64
LEICESTER	34	14	5	15	46	45	47
WOLVES	33	13	8	12	41	42	47
EVERTON	34	13	7	14	46	44	46
WATFORD	33	13	7	13	47	48	46
WEST HAM	34	12	6	16	42	52	42
BOURNEMOUTH	34	12	5	17	49	61	41
CRYSTAL PALACE	34	11	6	17	40	46	39
BURNLEY	34	11	6	17	42	60	39
NEWCASTLE	34	10	8	16	32	43	38
SOUTHAMPTON	33	9	9	15	39	54	36
BRIGHTON	33	9	6	18	32	53	33
CARDIFF	34	9	4	21	30	63	31
(R) FULHAM	34	5	5	24	32	76	20
(R) HUDDERSFIELD	34	3	5	26	19	67	14

Cardiff boost survival bid at free-falling Brighton

CARDIFF kept their hopes of avoiding relegation alive with victory over fellow strugglers Brighton at the Amex.

Goals in either half from Nathaniel Mendez-Laing and Sean Morrison mean the Bluebirds are just two points adrift of their hosts, who have a game in hand, with four matches to play.

The visitors took the lead on 22 minutes,

PREMIER LEAGUE

BRIGHTON	0
CARDIFF	2

Mendez-Laing's sweet strike from the edge of the penalty area finishing off a fine counter attack.

Morrison (left) sealed the points five minutes after the restart, leaping above Lewis Dunk to nod the ball past Mat Ryan.

Glenn Murray hit the post for Brighton late on.

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A MESS OF THEI OWN MAKINC

DE GEA CLANGER GIFTS LIONEL A GOAL AS UNITED CRASH OUT AT THE NOU CAMP

by DANNY GRIFFITHS

LIONEL MESSI pounced twice in four devastating first-half minutes as an outclassed Manchester United were sent tumbling out of the Champions League 4-0 on aggregate.

The little maestro wasted little time in breaking the deadlock in front of a Nou Camp crowd who were just in awe of him.

He dispossessed Ashley Young out wide in the 16th minute, cut inside to nutmeg Fred and then curled a divine left-foot shot into the far corner from 20 yards.

The Argentinian, who was relatively quite in last Wednesday's 1-0 first-leg victory at Old Trafford, swiftly doubled the lead to effectively put Barcelona into the last four for the first time since 2015.

He surged past Fred to unleash a shot which United goalkeeper David De Gea should have easily gathered, only for it to squirm under his body and over the line.

It was Messi's tenth goal in Europe and 45th in all competitions this season as well as his 597th in a Barcelona shirt.

He then turned provider with a lovely pass for Philippe Coutinho to crash in a real corker from distance on the hour for 3-0.

A terrible night may have turned out to be so different, though, if United had capitalised on a flying start. Marcus Rashford nearly put them level on aggregate inside 30 seconds when he raced clear and hit a rising shot which clipped the crossbar.

Scott McTominay also threatened as the La Liga leaders, who had not lost in 18 games in all competitions, looked fragile.

It seemed it may not be the Catalans' night when referee Felix Brych consulted VAR and changed his mind after initially awarding a penalty when Ivan Rakitic went sprawling under Fred's challenge.

That, however, was before Messi's quick-fire double. He then turned Phil Jones inside out on the stroke of half-time to release Jordi Alba. The defender's low cross found Sergi Roberto at the far post only for De Gea to redeem himself with a fantastic save.

Barca goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen's only real stop was in the 89th minute from substitute Alexis Sanchez's header.

It was a miserable return to the Nou Camp for United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who scored the winner 20 years ago as the club beat Bayern Munich to win the Champions League and clinch the Treble.

PICTURE:GETTY

Back to his best: Messi wheels away in celebration leaving a crestfallen De Gea in his wake last night

Ole: We must reach level of Barcelona

MANCHESTER United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer insisted the club must take their lead from Lionel Messi's Barcelona after a humbling defeat last night.

Messi scored twice to help Barca win 3-0 on the night, 4-0 on aggregate, and Solskjaer (right) told BT Sport: 'We started well, created decent chances, then Messi started and he was the difference. He's different class.

'This Barcelona team are the level we have to aspire to. We want to get back to United's true traditions and challenge the likes of Barcelona.'

United's Jesse Lingard also hailed Barca superstar Messi. 'He brought his A-game tonight, he's one of the best in the world. All we can do is move on,' he said.

Turin proud: Matthijs de Ligt (left) celebrates his goal for Ajax that clinched a 2-1 victory over Juventus and a 3-2 success on aggregate

RESULTS

Premier League
Brighton ..... 0 Cardiff 2
Champions League quarter-final, second legs
Barcelona ..... 3 Manchester Utd 0
(Barcelona win 4-0 on aggregate)
Juventus ..... 1 Ajax 2
(Ajax win 3-2 on aggregate)

FIXTURES (7.45pm unless stated)

Champions League
quarter-final, second legs
Manchester City (0) v Tottenham (1) ..... (8pm) ***TV*** *BT Sport 2*
Porto (0) v Liverpool (2) ..... (8pm) ***TV*** *BT Sport 3*
Women's Super League
Everton v Birmingham ..... (7pm)
Yeovil v Reading .....

Close call: Rashford almost opened the scoring for United

LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB
PORTO V LIVERPOOL
KLOPP MODEST OVER 'BEST IN WORLD' TALK
Page 35 »

MANCHESTER
MAN CITY V TOTTENHAM
PEP WANTS CITY FANS TO BRING THE NOISE
Pages 36-37 »

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★★★★★ **It's not just the time you waste** ⏰
surfing through copious copy/paste ***OMG LIFE CHANGING!!!!*** review titles used to fraudulently sell anything from digital smartwatches to electric nose trimmers.

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on a dodgy vacuum cleaner bought off the back of a liar's endorsement.

★☆☆☆☆ **Or the damage caused to a business** 🚒
by a faker being deliberately negative about a rival seller.

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